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The Great War is an *oxymoron*

noun ox·y·mo·ron \ ˌäk-si-'mör-, -än, -sē- \

(*plural* 'oxymora')

A figure of speech combining two normally contradictory terms, *e.g.*, 'deafening silence.'

Origin: Greek From OXY ('sharp') and MOROS ('dull')

Oxymora are a proper subset of the expressions called *contradiction in terms*.

The Great War

is an excellent example, for

No War is ever Great.

Introduction

In THE FIRST WORLD WAR, THE LIGHTNING DIVISION AND PRIVATE ALBERT MATELENA (2006) the following appears on page 57:

“IS THIS THE END?”

In the most obvious way, yes, this is the end ... of this book. But not the end of the story.”

That statement held more truth than I had ever imagined. I knew there was more information buried in archives and unit histories yet to be found and personal recollections to be read. I anticipated two or three pages of additional information. As those sources were found and the information extracted, I was surprised to find, first, ten pages, then twenty ... and finally forty! This is greater than the number of pages contained in that first work that specifically dealt with the movements of the 311th Infantry Regiment, in essence, more than doubling the information.

Information has been accessed that details almost every single day that PRIVATE MATELENA served, from his first day at Camp Dix, 12 February 1918, to his last, 30 May 1919. Some of this information has caused me to reevaluate a couple of the assumptions I made and, if a revision is called for, it will be found on these pages.

SO, IS **THIS** THE END?

The answer is not known by this writer. Who knows what other sources of information are available and what they contain? Time will tell.

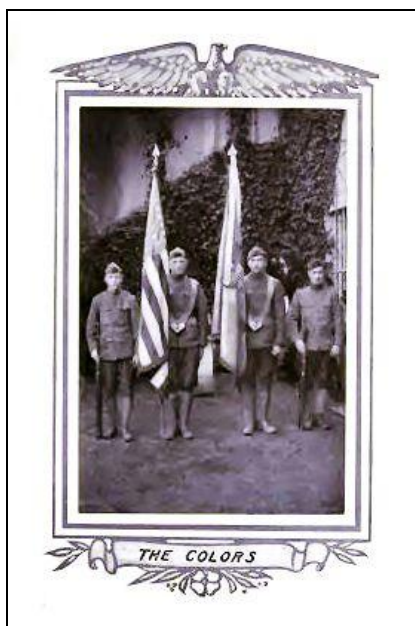
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CAMP DIX

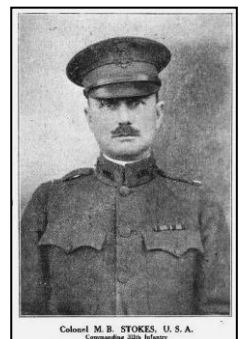
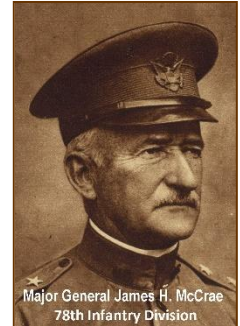
ALBERT fought in World War I from 27 February 1917 to 30 May 1919. He was in Company E, 2nd Infantry Battalion, 311th Infantry Regiment, 156th Infantry Brigade of the 78th Division until his discharge.¹ The first draftees reported to Camp Dix on 5 September 1917. Nine days after turning 22, ALBERT reported to Camp Dix to begin basic training. The last of the inductees of the first draft were required to report to Camp Dix on 12 February 1918. It is interesting to see the desperate need for men even at this early stage for, even though he was excused from most daily drills due to pain over his heart caused by the heart damage from his bout with typhoid fever 5 years earlier, he was accepted nonetheless. His entrance exam at Camp Dix was performed on 2 March 1918 when he was recorded as being 5' 4³/₄" tall and weighing just 126 pounds!²

The American Expeditionary Force was composed of just the 1st Army (whose insignia is a black 'A' on a white and red rectangle) until the last month of the war. October saw the formation of the 2nd Army (insignia: '2') while the 3rd Army (insignia: a white 'A' on blue circle with a red band) was created four days before the Armistice. The Army had three components: Regular Army, National Guard, and National Army. The Armies were made up of seven Corps, before the Armistice, usually written with the Roman numerals I through VII. The Corps had a total of 48 Infantry Divisions with two Infantry Brigades each. Each Brigade had two Infantry Regiments, along with Engineers, Machine Gun, and Artillery Regiments. The Regular Army had thirteen Divisions, numbered 1 – 13, accounting for roughly 26 Brigades and 52 Infantry Regiments with numbers between 1 and 100. There were



sixteen National Guard Divisions, numbered 26 – 42, with about 34 Brigades made up of Regiments numbered 101 to 168; and seventeen National Army Divisions numbered 76 – 93, with 34 Brigades of Regiments numbered 301 to 368. By the end of the war these distinctions had been abolished though they remained in use in the field.

The command structure was as follows. MAJOR GENERAL JAMES HENRY MCRAE was the 78th Lightning Division commander; BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES T. DEAN commanded the 156th Brigade and COLONEL MARCUS B. STOKES was Regimental commander. MAJOR GEORGE T. ADEE was 2nd Battalion commander and 1ST LIEUTENANT JOHN R. KENNEDY





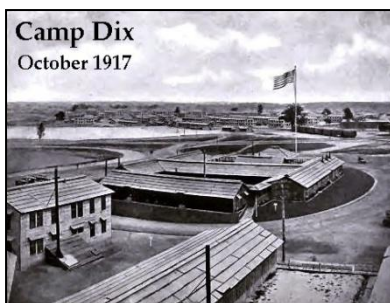
View of Camp Dix from Division Headquarters Tower

was Adjutant for the Battalion. Company E was under the command of CAPTAIN HENRY P. WARREN, JUNIOR with 1st LIEUTENANT ROBERT L. DAVISON, 1st LIEUTENANT ELSWORTH DEDERER, 1st LIEUTENANT CLARENCE M. FINCH, 2nd LIEUTENANT ALBERT A. KELLEHER and 2nd LIEUTENANT PAUL W. EMANUEL as his officers. Under the localization program in effect in 1917, the units of the 78th were slated to be as follows: New Jersey men made up the 311th and 312th Infantry, the 308th Artillery and 1st Battalion, and 303rd Engineers; those from western New York state made up the 309th and 310th Infantry, the 307th and 309th Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 303rd Engineers; men from Delaware made up the Divisional Machine Gun Battalion; and other units had men from anywhere as long as they were qualified. Of the 25,000 men of the 78th, roughly 3,600 men comprised the 311th Infantry Regiment. They were proud to be one of the first to be presented with their Regimental colors which they soon displayed at the Third Liberty Bond Drive parade in Philadelphia on 27 April 1918. The 310th and 311th were reviewed by military and civil officials from a grandstand near City Hall, and an estimated 2 million people lined the parade route.³

Camp Dix was built to house 50,000 persons, including several thousand Camp staff. The 25,000 men of the 78th Infantry Division were based there as were the 6,000 men of the 369th



“*Harlem Hellfighters*” Infantry Regiment (15th New York Colored Infantry Regiment). The 369th occupied section 1 at the front, north side, of Camp Dix from August 1917 to January 1918 at least while the 78th had the whole south half of the camp. The 369th was one of four Regiments making up the 92nd “*Buffalo Soldiers*” Infantry Division. For unknown reasons, most sources miss the posting at Camp Dix (the posting to Camp Wadsworth in Spartanburg, South Carolina in October 1917 probably may have been one of the other three Regiments but contemporary sources list Camps Funston, Grant, Dodge, Upton, Meade and Dix as the posts).⁴ The 369th was one of the most highly decorated units of the war with PRIVATE HENRY JOHNSON being the first American to be awarded the French *Croix de guerre*; the United



States followed suit only 97 years late; PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA awarded JOHNSON the Medal of Honor in 2015, 86 years after he died. SERGEANT MATTHEW JENKINS of the 370th also received the French *Croix de Guerre*.

78th Headquarters is centered on flagpole at left. Access to Trenton and Philadelphia was by bus or train.

The Camp, bordering on Wrightstown, had taken over a couple villages, including most of Pointville. For relaxation, Camp Dix boasted the Farmhouse Soldier's Club in an old farmhouse once in Pointville, overseen by the National League for Women's Service; the Army also took over and had men from the 78th run the 'old Brick Hotel' in Wrightstown.



"Old Brick Hotel" Wrightstown, NJ



Farmhouse Soldiers Club, Camp Dix, N.J.

There were changes in the surrounding areas as well: *The Haversack* and the *Woman's Suffrage Clubs* opened in Wrightstown, while the *Methodist Hostess House*, the *Farmhouse Club* and *Saint George's Club* opened in Pointville.



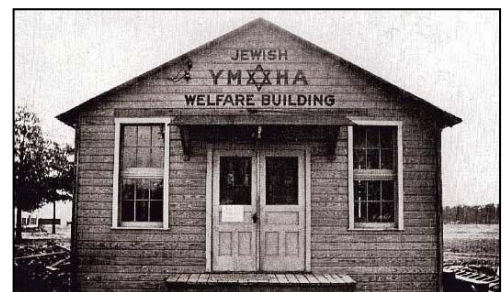
Methodist Hostess House, Camp Dix, Pointville, N.J.



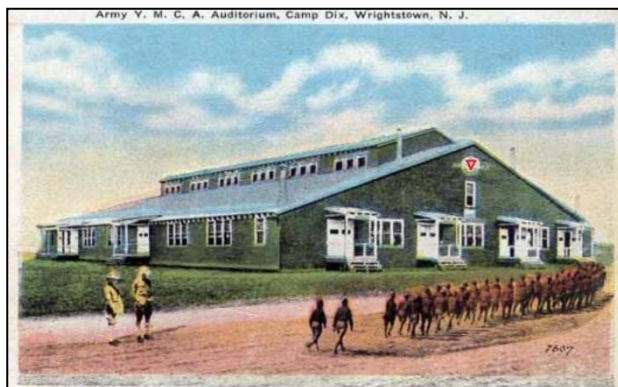
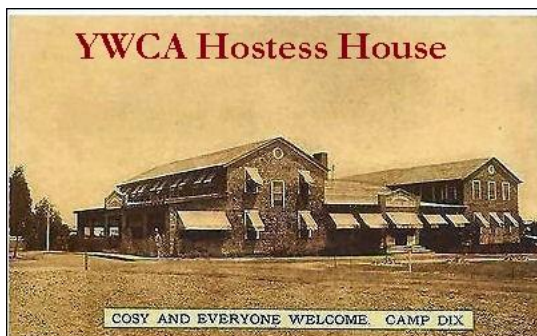
SOLDIERS CLUB
CONDUCTED BY
NEW JERSEY WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION
WRIGHTSTOWN, N.J.



St. George's Club, Pointville

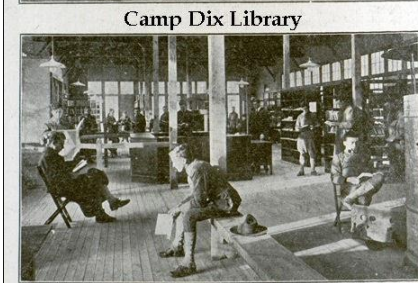
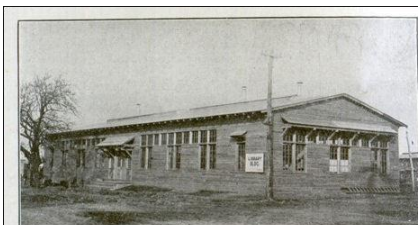
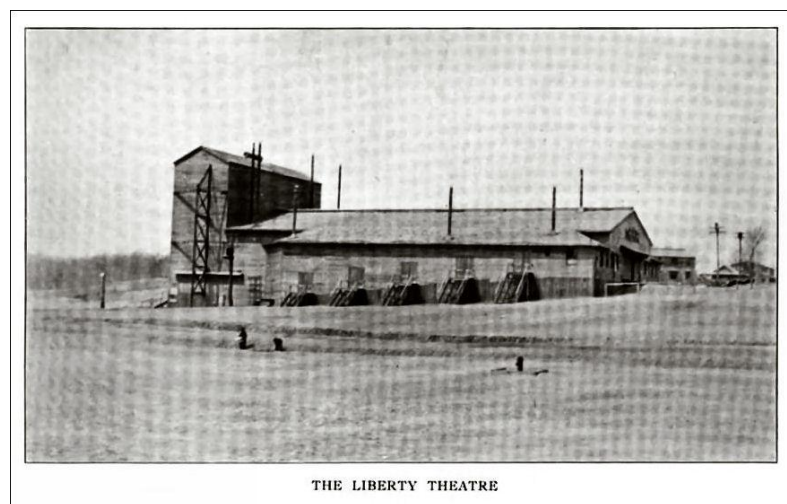


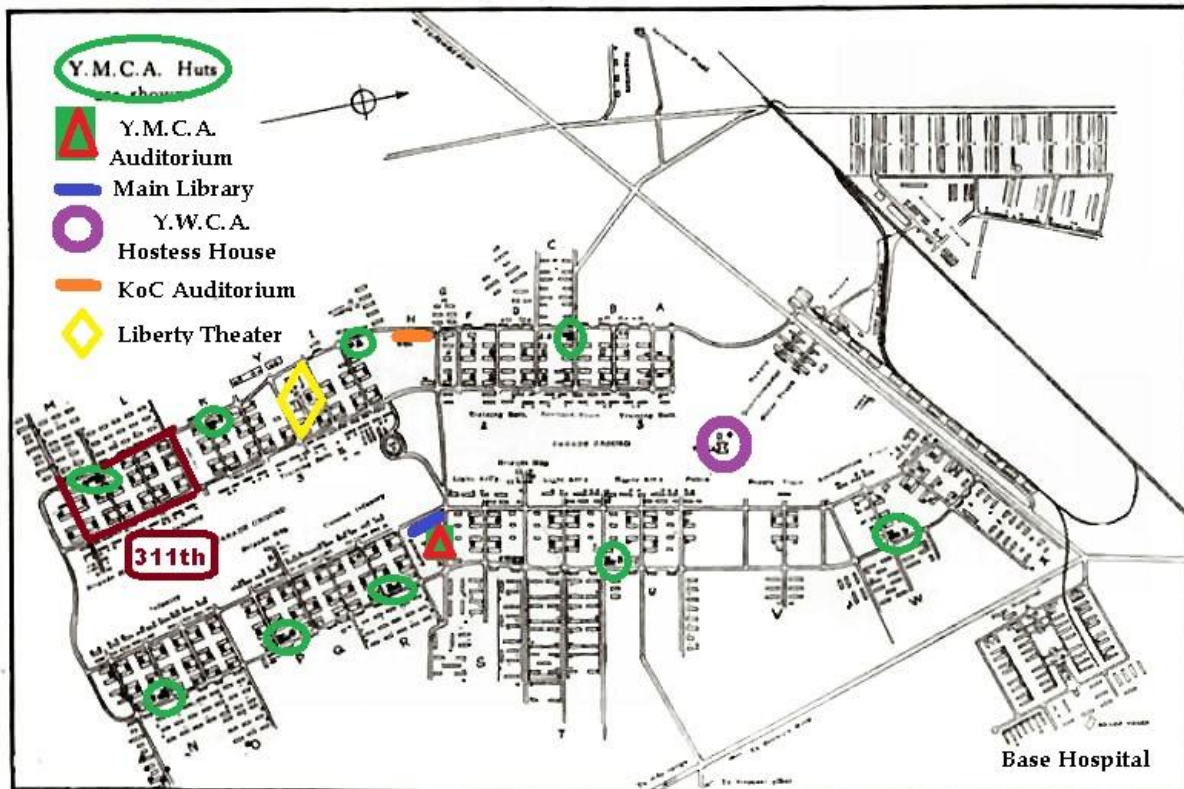
And there were plenty of activities available on the base. The Y.M.C.A. Morristown Central Hall in section 6 sat 3,000 and there were 9 Y.M.C.A. hut's around the camp; all were painted a distinctive green and called the *red triangle* because of their logo. The Y.W.C.A. was there too with their Hostess House, a place for wives, girlfriends and mothers to visit with their soldier. The



Knights of Columbus main hall sat 1,200 and showed movies on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday evenings. They had 3 smaller halls in the Camp. There was an office looking after the welfare of Jewish soldiers (but nothing like that for the *Harlem Hellfighters* who are also omitted from most Camp Dix literature, except for their much-praised Regimental band).

The Army's Dix Theater, "the New Home for High Class Burlesque," had live and movie shows from 15¢ to 75¢ with 70% being paid by coupons. The library system had a main office and smaller branches throughout camp.



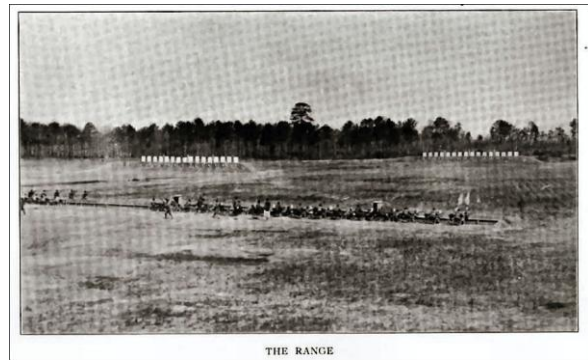


MAP OF CAMP DIX

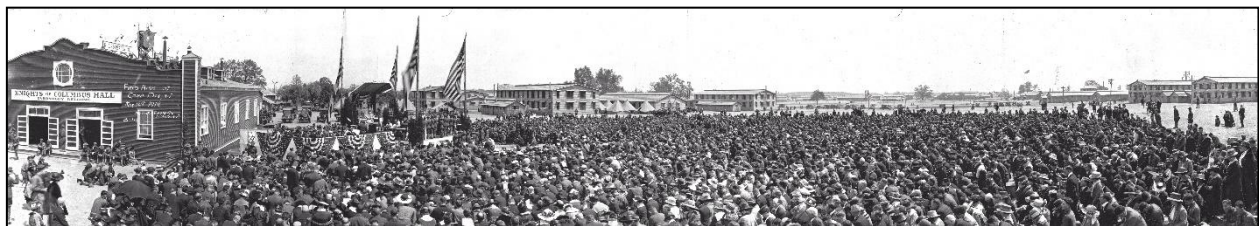


The 311th and 312th Regiments were in section 4, the most distant part of the camp to the south (*left side in the map above*). The section had 28 2-story barracks, each holding 167 men (250 if they were in the ones with a 25' extension). Half of the first floor was taken up by the mess hall which had a kitchen in a single-story extension. The other half had offices, storage and some sleeping quarters. The entire 2nd story was sleeping quarters. Each barracks also had a machine-gun barracks and a medical building. Each section also has its own railroad siding.⁵

Training included classes in trench warfare and weaponry. A rifle range was built 6 miles south of the camp. Just south of Cranberry Hall and 3.5 miles from Browns Mills, it was 13.5 miles long! The range was 1000 yards wide for rifles and even longer for machine guns.



A Field Mass conducted on 12 May 1918 had 18,000 attendees!



The bus service to Trenton was operated by the manager of the RKO Broad (we know it as the CYO Building) with his movie house being, conveniently, the Trenton stop!

I have included the full 62 page report of the American Battle Monuments Commission of the Terrain Photographs of the 78th Infantry Division during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, October 10 – November 5, 1918, after the endnotes. The maps with their attendant photographs are a great help in visualizing the area, as it was, while the offensive was taking place.

Sheet No. 8
Class

HEADQUARTERS PORT OF EMBARKATION, HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY
PASSENGER LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS AND CASUALS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THIS FORM
Expanded list of FIVE COPIES EACH, will be filled out by each company or detachment commander as follows:
1st List: Officers arranged according to rank; nurses, if any; civilian employees, if any. These names should be numbered consecutively beginning with No. 1.
2d List: Non-commissioned officers above Grade 17, (Paragraph 9, Army Regulations), arranged according to grade.
3d List: Enlisted men below Grade 16, (Paragraph 9, Army Regulations), arranged according to the usual formation of the Company, that is, by squads. These names should be numbered consecutively beginning with No. 1.

To be filled in by Organization	Give full name of organization including company and regimental designation.	COMPANY E 311 INFANTRY					
To be filled in by Quartermaster, Port of Embarkation	Name of Transport or Commercial Steamer.	NESTOR					
	Date of Sailing	MAY 19 1918					
	Port	BROOKLYN N.Y.					
No.	NAME (Family name followed by Christian names in full.)	(Numerical Designation of Enlisted Men)	Rank and Corps	Organization	NOTIFY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. (Give name in full.)	Relationship.	ADDRESS (Number, Street, City and State.)

NOTE: Leave double space between names. DO NOT abbreviate names of persons, streets or cities.
All typewriting must be in capital letters only. Names of enlisted men must be identical with those on service records.

107	REED HARVEY W 1762846	PVT	CO E MR CHARLES DAUBER	POSTER FATHER	311TH INF	FAIRVIEW AVE JOHNSONBURG PA	
108	SAUNDERS WILLIAM D 1752601	PVT	" MRS ANNA SAUNDERS	MOTHER	"	978 E 19TH ST PATERSON N.J.	
109	POLESE ALESSIO 172450675	PVT	" MARIA POLESE	MOTHER	"	123 HORTON AV PORT CHESTER N.Y.	
110	LUBOW SAMPSON 2450264	PVT	" HERMAN LUBOW	BROTHER	"	116 GROVE ST BROOKLYN NY	
111	MURRAY PETER 2412241	PVT	" JOSEPH MURRAY	BROTHER	"	327 W HANOVER ST TRENTON N.J.	
112	HUNT JOHN J 2940037	PVT	" MRS JULIA HUNT	MOTHER	"	44 NEWARK AVE JERSEY CITY N.J.	
113	LAMBERT JOHN C 1748887	PVT	" MRS CATHERINE LAMBERT	MOTHER	"	70 GAUTEIR AVE JERSEY CITY N.J.	
114	DUSZYNSKI STEPHEN A 1737200	PVT	" MRS HADWIG DUSZYNSKI	MOTHER	"	149 WOLTZ AVE BUFFALO N.Y.	
115	GERBAUER WALTER J 1737205	PVT	" MRS GEORGE H GERBAUER	FATHER	"	160 JOHNSON ST BUFFALO N.Y.	
116	NORRIS DANIEL A 1753024	PVT	" MISS ELIZABETH NORRIS	SISTER	"	2 STEWART AVE NEWARK N.J.	
117	HOLLAND COLES D 1753022	PVT	" MRS JENNIE HOLLAND	MOTHER	"	R F D # 2 NEWARK N.Y.	
118	PICARD JOSEPH H 1747820	PVT	" MRS ANNA PICARD	WIFE	"	211 ORANGE ST ALBANY N.Y.	
119	GANNAWAY FREDERICK W 1748235	PVT	" MRS FREDERICK W GANNAWAY	WIFE	"	150 POMEROY AVE KEARNEY N.J.	
120	RAFFERTY CHARLES F 1747848	PVT	" MRS MARY C RAFFERTY	MOTHER	"	JAWA CENTER N.Y.	
122	VOLL CASPER J JR 1737242	PVT	" MRS ELIZABETH VOLL	MOTHER	"	409 MADISON BUFFALO N.Y.	
123	SACHHETTI ANTONIO 2451175	PVT	" MISS OLIVE GILL	FRIEND	"	GREENFIELD AVE. BRONXVILLE, N.Y.	
124	SPOTACZAK STANLEY 1737234	PVT	" MRS. JOSEPHINE SPOTACZAK	WIFE	"	53 ROTHER AVE BUFFALO N.Y.	
125	LOMBARDI PRIMIANO 2411423	PVT	" MRS. ANGELINE LOMBARDI	AUNT	"	529 2nd St. Chester, Pa.	
126	DEPALMA LOUIS 1752561	PVT	" MRS. ORSLA DEPALMA	MOTHER	"	10 CHESTNUT ST. PATERSON, N.J.	
127	AMADIO GIOVANNIO 2411417	PVT	" MR. SALATINO AMADIO	BROTHER	"	114 FULTON ST. TRENTON N.J.	
128	CAMERALE BERNARDINO 2411402	PVT	" MRS NICHOLAS TUMMALLO	UNCLE	"	223 CENTER ST. TRENTON, N.J.	
129	MATELENA ALBERT J. 2409639	PVT	" MRS. MARY MATELENA	MOTHER	"	421 PRINCETON AV TRENTON, N.J.	
130	SOMMA COSIMO 1737255	PVT	" MR. FRANK BONAPARTE	COUSIN	"	358 BROADWAY, BUFFALO, N.Y.	
131	MCDONALD GEORGE G 1762843	PVT	" MRS MARY E MCDONALD	MOTHER	"	412 WEST FERRY ST BUFFALO N Y	
132	GRAJEK MICHAEL 1737203	PVT	" MICHAEL GRAJEK	FATHER	"	155 SOBIESKI ST BUFFALO N Y	

Duplicated see next sheet

DISPOSITION:

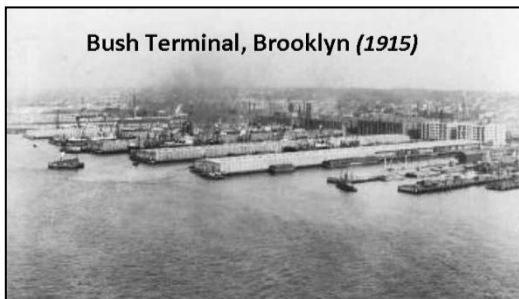
Five copies of this list to be handed to the Army Transport Service representative at gang-plank by which company embarks.

STATISTICAL COPY

H. P. (Signature)
(Signature of Company Commander)
Capt. Luf. (Signature)
(Rank)

THE YANKS ARE COMING!

ALBERT spent a year and ten days overseas, leaving Camp Dix by train for Jersey City at 4 am on Sunday, 19 May 1918. Three hours later they boarded ferries that took them to Pier 8 at the Bush Terminal in Brooklyn where they immediately boarded US Army Transport 599, the USS *Nestor*. This ship had just been released from duty as a troop ship for the Australian Expeditionary Forces and the 311th were the first US troops to be transported on this vessel. Convoys were assembled under the direction of the United States Cruiser and Transport Force and his was escorted by ARMored Cruiser N^o. 13, USS *Montana*.⁶ Even today, an accurate account of the size of the convoy remains elusive – some say 9, others 13 while 17 is also noted. The number of named vessels in the *train*, i.e. troopships, found in the records so far is 15 with the *Montana* the only escort during the first half of the crossing. After departing the states from Boston, New York and Philadelphia, the convoy rendezvoused at Halifax Harbor in Nova Scotia before heading across the pond on 27 May.



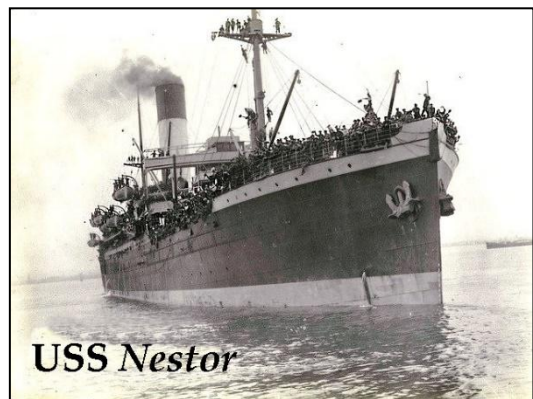
Bush Terminal, Brooklyn (1915)

Most of the transports were British including SS *Winifredian*, SS *Vestris*, SS *Eurylochus*, SS *Kildonan Castle*⁷, SS *Beltana*, SS *Northland*, SS *Miltiades*, RMS *Saxon*, and SS *Justicia*; HMT *Aquitania* and SS *Kia Ora* were Australian. The USS *Nestor*, USS *Louisville* (SP-1644; before and after the war named SS *Saint Louis*), and USS *Virginian* (ID-3920) were American (though there was an RMS *Virginian* that could have been the

ship in the convoy).

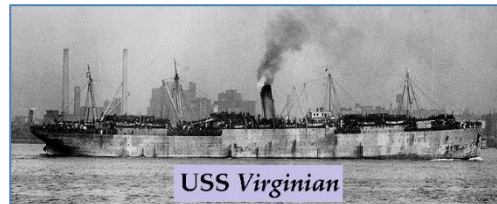
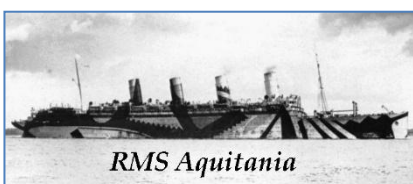
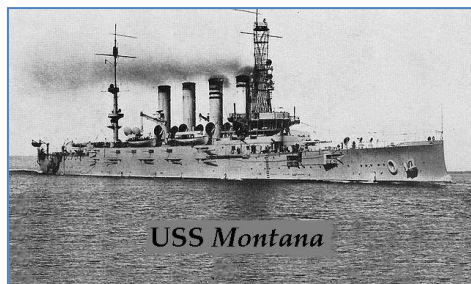
Convoys were split into Convoy Groups, each Group having 4 to 8 transports capable of running at the same speed with an Armed Cruiser in escort until being met mid-Atlantic by a European escort of destroyers and battleships. This was designated a *fast* convoy. Each group should have had its own escort but, other than *Montana*, none have been named. Two named ships that have not yet been identified are the *Marvada* and the *Mentor*. The torpedo boat destroyer HMS (HMTB) *Mentor* was probably one of the escorts.

I have reconstructed the convoy as best I can; when they sailed the men did not know the names of the other vessels in the convoy and sometimes even their own was a mystery as it was policy to hide the identity of most vessels with false names and fake structures like a dummy funnel. First, the escort, then another of the *Nestor*, and the twelve more I've located.



USS Nestor

Note on designations: **SS** means *Single-screw Steamship*; **TSS** means *Twin-screw Steamship* (both being related to number of propellers); **RMS** means *Royal Mail Ship*; **HMT** may mean *His Majesty's Troopship* or *Hired Military Transport*; **TBD** means *Torpedo Boat Destroyer*; **HMTB** means *His Majesty's Torpedo Boat*; **USS** means *United States Ship* and is reserved for commissioned ships only.



Note the *razzle-dazzle* paint jobs on several of the ships. This was to confuse anyone watching them from correctly estimating their speed and direction. Taken from nature, *e.g.* zebras, it was thought such patterns made it difficult to tell which direction a vessel was heading, just as the stripes on zebras confuse attackers who aim incorrectly and miss. A *zig-zag* sailing pattern was another effective measure against torpedo attacks. Whether or not this actually had any benefit has never been properly tested. It did not for the *Justicia*; she was torpedoed six times by the German submarines *UB-64* and *UB-124* seven weeks later and sank off the coast of Scotland. For the fate of the *Vestris*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nr6e4laZev8&index=7&list=WL>.

In the early afternoon of May 28th the *Montana* reported a submarine sighting on the starboard side of the convoy and the convoy commenced a zig-zag pattern for safety. The convoy was joined by 3 destroyers in the early morning hours of the 30th.⁸ The *Vestris* sighted a U-boat on the 2nd of June and one historian relates that the SS *Beltana* narrowly missed ramming a submarine on the same day. The historian watched as two Allied torpedo boats gave chase, destroying the U-boat with depth charges and watching its hull briefly break the surface before sliding out of sight about 300 yards off the bow of his ship – it's impossible to refute the account of a firsthand witness but, if his retelling is accurate perhaps there were two convoys which accounts for the conflicting details of the number of troop ships. The alleged sinking is corroborated in another unit history but in that retelling, two U-boats were sunk.⁹ The Division history states there were submarine attacks on June 2, 3, and 4. Some sailed north of Ireland, through the Irish Sea into the Mersey, with some of the convoy disembarking in Liverpool as early as the last day of May.¹⁰ The *Kildonan Castle* headed to Tilbury in London. The *Vestris*, *Kia Oro*, *Beltana* and *Eurylochus* left the convoy under escort of TBD *Morning Star* on the 3rd of June.



Torpedo Boat Destroyer, 1914

It is rumored that ALBERT was disciplined for gambling on the transport ship.¹¹ Many years later, he was asked by an inquisitive grandson, just how one would run a crap game on a pitching steel-decked troop ship and ALBERT proceeded to show him: stretch an army blanket taut across the floor. He then proceeded to instruct said grandson of the necessity of properly cradling the die in the crook between the second and third fingers, with the “correct sides” facing up, to win.



Brunembert

A short march from the docks had him boarding an overnight train to Folkestone, near Dover. On 3 June he boarded a fast channel steamer and, sandwiched between two American destroyers, made a dash for the coast of *Calais*.¹² They made for rest camps outside the town and, once there,



A NEW FRENCH MACHINE GUN WHERE THE CARTRIDGES, INSTEAD OF BEING FED FROM A STRAP, ARE INSERTED IN A SEMI-CIRCULAR DEVICE AS HERE SHOWN.

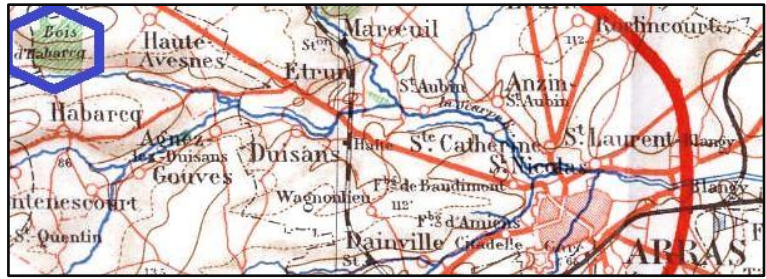
exchanged their American rifles for English Enfield's. Training continued with a move to *Brunembert*, near *Nielles-lès-Bélquin* in Flanders, on 14 June; they stayed through 18 July as part of the 2nd British Army Corps. The better *rest camps* were long, low buildings with a center aisle flanked by rows of bunk beds usually with a pile of much-used hay marked 'for beds'; the ones first encountered outside of Calais were tents originally made for 8 men now designated for 16.¹³ On the 19th they entrained at *Lottinghen* in the morning, reaching their

destination, *Ligny-Saint Flochel* station at 5:30 pm. From 18 July to 20 August they were in the *Arras* area near *Roellecourt* as a unit of the 1st British Army; 2nd Battalion was at *Maisnil-Saint*

Pol. They were supervised by the 14th Highland Light Infantry until the 3rd of August. (National Archives film at: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/24776>).

ELSIE JANIS, headliner on Broadway and London, entertained the troops on August 4th, being one of the first

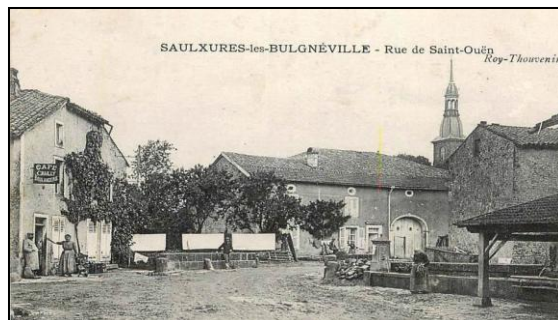
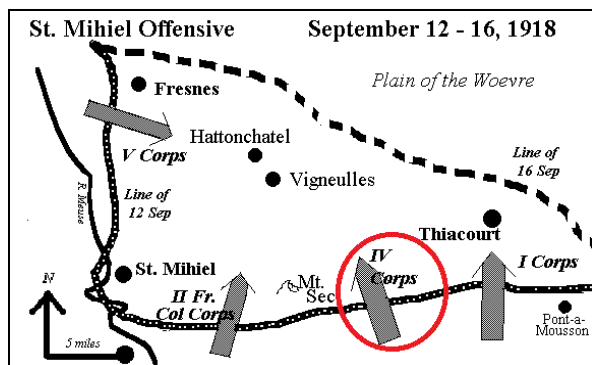
American entertainers to venture close to the front lines. The 78th manned the “*G.H.Q. line*,” the second set of trenches, a couple miles behind the front line trenches with Company E relieving Company B west of Arras in the *Bois d’Habarcq* during the evening of August 6th. After this 24-hour trial in the trenches, the 2nd Battalion marched to *Hauteville* in anticipation of entering the front lines but this did not come to pass. They received orders on the 18th to prepare to leave for the American sector and 2 days later they marched some 8 miles to *Tinques*, the railhead on Arras Road where, once entrained, they headed east. The enemy held most of this part of France since the *Battle of the Marne* in 1914; the Germans held Alsace and Lorraine since 1870. They, literally, travelled in cattle cars marked “*Hommes 40, Chevaux 8*” on the side. The two-day ride on the rails skirted the northern extremes of *Paris* and followed the River Marne before detraining at the station in *Passavant-en-Argonne*, after which they may have been briefly assigned to the 6th Corps Staff, presumably the VI Army Corps that was activated 1 August at *Neufchâteau*.



This map shows where the 78th Division travelled during the eleven months they were in France.

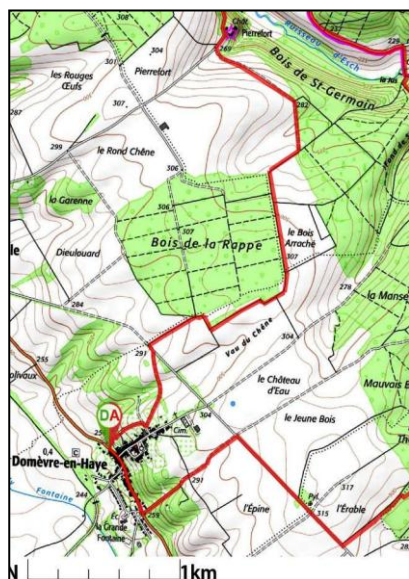


Sketch showing the Travels of 78th Division Infantry Regiments Through England and France. The dotted and numbered section of map represents France.



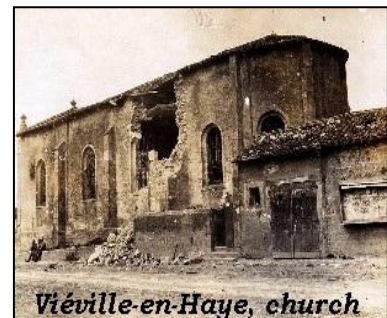
12

SAINT MIHIEL OFFENSIVE



Company E was billeted at *Martinville*, north of *Passavant* from the 22nd to 28th; they exchanged English *Enfield*'s for French *Chauchats* and were assigned to the 1st Army Corps, I Corps ('Eye' Corps) which was activated at *Neufchâteau* by 20 January. The Regiment marched 13 miles, stopping in *Fresnes-sur-Apance*, a couple miles east of *Bourbonne-les-Bains* on the 28th, then to *Merrey* the next day; Company E headed 5 miles further and reached their assigned area of *Domblain* on the 30th. From here, at 9:00 pm on the 4th of September, the 311th began their first 8-hour night march, in a steady rain. Covering 15 miles that first night, they reached *Saulxures-lès-Bulgnéville*. The next night march took them northeast to *Courcelles* where they rested a couple of days and made good use of the time as, on 6th, a target range was set up where every man disposed of one 20-round magazine with their *chauchat*, the first and only practice before meeting the enemy. On Tuesday, the 10th, the afternoon march started out in a downpour but ended in a deluge with gale force winds an hour later. Around 4 pm they crammed 20 men to a French *camion* or motor truck near *Chatenois* that were driven all night by French colonial soldiers, *Annamites* or Vietnamese, to bivouac in the *Bois de la Côte-en-Haye*, east of *Tremblecourt*. ALBERT most likely had difficulty as he could not hike great distances without suffering from disabling pains over his heart area. The last move before the offensive had the 311th bivouacked a half-mile north of *Domèvre-en-Haye* in the *Bois de la Rappe*.

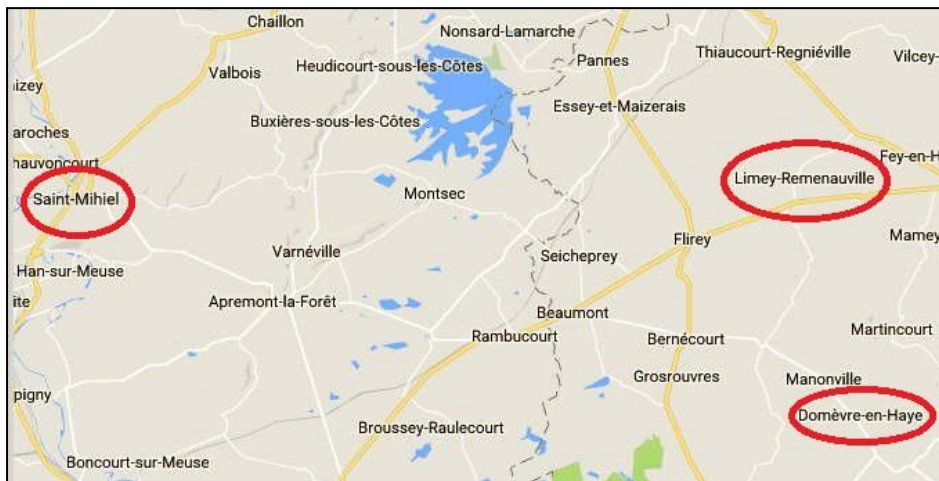
The ST. MIHIEL OFFENSIVE commenced at 1 am on the 12th of September with a 4-hour barrage followed by the advance of 7 American divisions at 5 am.¹⁴ On the 13th the 156th Brigade was hurriedly ordered to *Loge Mangin* to reinforce 2nd Division that was crumbling under a German counterattack. As they neared *Regnieville*, news was received from an indignant 2nd Division – first, they were not under attack and second, if they were, they certainly would not need any help! New orders materialized for them to head to the *Bois de Hocquemont* which they accomplished by 7 pm. Passing through *Regnieville* and *Remenauville*, two villages practically wiped off the earth, the men witnessed dead and dying animals all around, unburied dead soldiers and only ruins where once buildings stood; some men were ordered to rebuild the roads which proved useful the next day. The 14th saw them march over the very same roads they had helped build the day before as they retraced their march through the desolated villages, arriving at *Bois d’Euvezin* at 4:30 am. They covered some 20 miles in just over 24 hours of almost nonstop marching. While here they came under shell fire for the first time and being novices, gas attack warnings rang out 14 times that first night; only 3 were issued the following night. The 78th remained in reserve until the night of 15 September when the 155th Brigade relieved the 2nd Division with the 156th Brigade relieving the 5th Division the following evening. The first action seen by ALBERT must have been both frightening and exciting. After seven months of training and now actually participating in the war, one must pause and wonder about the thoughts that accompanied him. At 8 pm on the 16th, the 311th began the relief of the 5th Divisions 61st Infantry Regiment while the 312th did the same for the 60th at *Viéville-en-Haye*, the village suffering much damage as seen in the photographs. Most has been rebuilt, including the *Église Saint-Airy* on Grande Rue, and the two farms on the map, *Tautecort* on the left and *La Souleuvre* on the right, are found with the same names on Google Maps today.



Elements of the 61st had advanced into the *Bois de Grande Fontaine* early on the 16th but a vigorous German counterattack had pushed back the line which led to some confusion. Company E was met by guides from the 61st but, for uncertain reasons, they were not placed in position and the outpost line was not manned that first night.¹⁵ The 78th took command of the sector at 10 am on the 17th but, as the 311th and 312th halted the enemy advance on the 16th and quickly reclaimed lost ground, they were credited with participating in the ST. MIHIEL OFFENSIVE which officially ended on the 16th.

LORRAINE OPERATION

The ST. MIHIEL OFFENSIVE closed on the 16th and the LORRAINE OPERATION opened on the 17th. The 2nd Battalion of the 311th took up the front lines with Company H in the outpost line, E, F, and G Companies in the main line and Battalion *P.C.*, or *Post of Command*, in the *Foret de Vencheres*, as indicated on the map. Their orders were to fortify the trenches on the main line as well as the platoon strong points on the outpost line. The main line was 1.3 miles from the *Hindenburg Line*, one of the shortest separations in the American sector. IV Corps, immediately to the right of the 311th expanded its command to the west on the 18th of September, incorporating several sectors from I Corps, including the 311th. Orders were issued from IV Corps on the 20th for raids in all

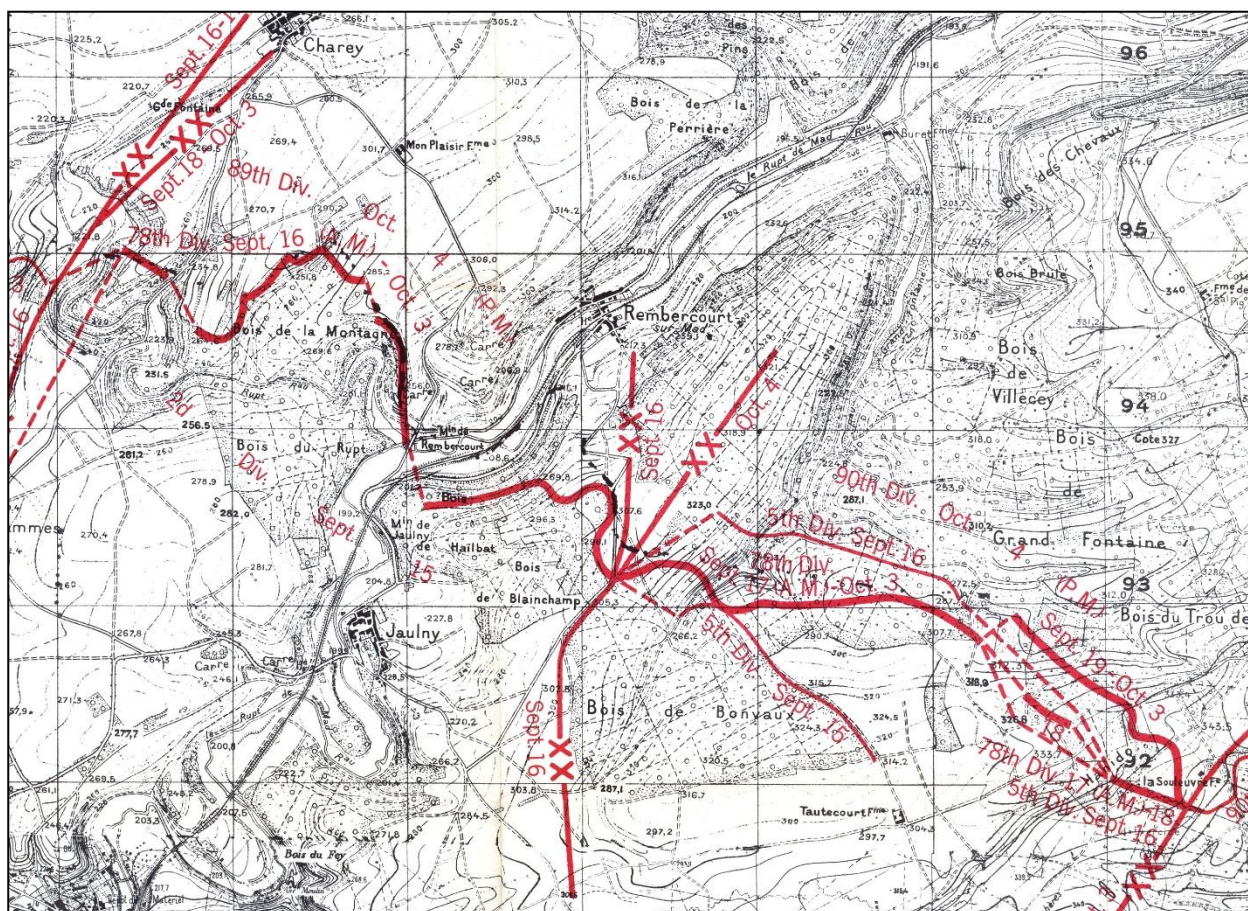


sectors to commence on the 21st but little is found in the record to say what happened that day but other sources say that the 2nd Battalion did not conduct any offensive raids until several days later. Possibly the raids were held off until the front-line Regiments

were relieved; the 2nd Battalion was relieved by the 1st Battalion on the 22nd. The area was secured and from there, raids into German held territory continued to divert attention and resources from the upcoming MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE; the 311th's first offensive was done by 1st Battalion through the *Bois de la Tru-de-la-Haye* on the 26th. After making a gain of a quarter-mile and taking a dozen machine gun nests and an equal number of prisoners, they had to fall back to the jumping off point after sustaining mounting casualties in an effective barrage and counterattack. Per Company B commander, this was the first time the men were exposed to the gruesome horrors of seeing your soldiers torn apart by shelling and machine guns – and never actually seeing the enemy that you are exchanging fire with. 2nd Battalion returned to the front lines from 27 September to 4 October which, for unexplained reasons, escaped the ABMC's 1944 Summary. The 156th *Brigade* was relieved by the 90th *Division* which may be a reflection of just how many men had been lost so far (as there are 2 *Brigades* in every *Division*).

The U.S. Army Signal Corps has a film of the 78th searching and escorting German prisoners in several sections, including the Limey sector. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/24831>

This map, from the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), shows where the 311th was early on the 16th (upper left) and where they ended up later that day (lower right).



The LORRAINE OPERATION is often portrayed as part of the SAINT MIHIEL OFFENSIVE for several reasons. Geographically, the *Lorraine* region includes *Saint Mihiel* and the areas to the east where the 311th was active. Both departments, *Meurthe-et-Moselle* for the *Limey* sector and *Meuse* for *Saint Mihiel*, are part of the *Lorraine* region and both the Offensive and the Operation were in *Lorraine*. Chronologically they followed each other without any clear ending of one and start of the other at the time; only afterwards were the soldiers aware of the fact that these were two different actions. There was no change in the goals expected in the Field Orders issued. The distinction may concern the massive offensive strategy epitomized by Meuse-Argonne for U.S. forces which saw actions launched not only along the whole of the Western Front but in every theater of war – the Balkans, the Caucasus, Palestine, and even Asia. The Lorraine Operation was considered to be a feint against the enemy to keep them unsure of the location of the imminent offensive while Saint Mihiel was an offensive with its own separate, but linked, goals. The fact that the Operation was both the mopping-up for the Saint Mihiel Offensive and the prelude to the Meuse-Argonne Offensive keeps any clear demarcation quite obscured. One notable distinction

appears to be Offensives are known for their battles while Operations, at that time, were not. This is reflected in the awards issued – only Offensives received recognition in the form of a medal; Operations did not.

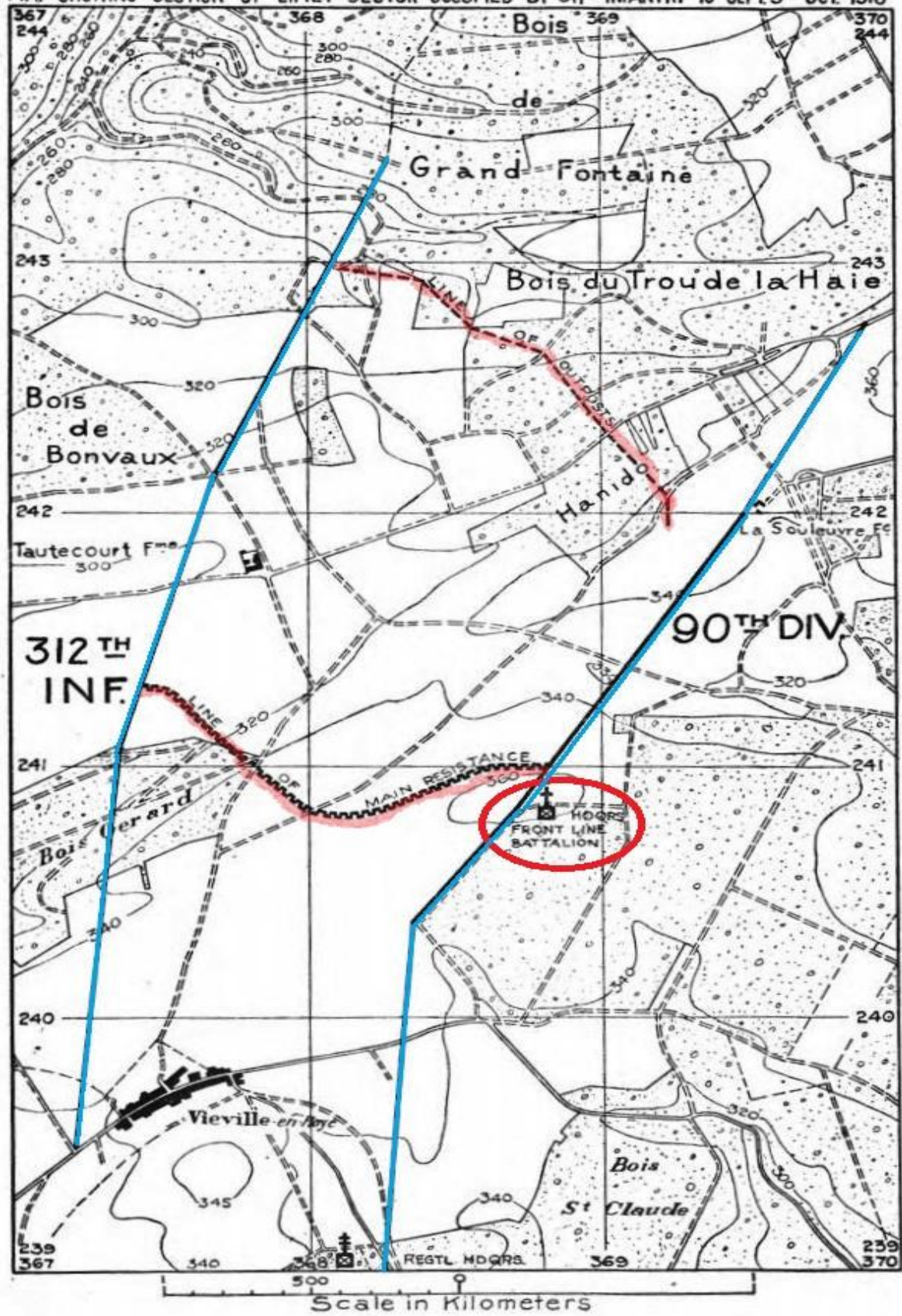
The 155th Brigade suffered more than the 156th with 854 wounded and 196 killed while the 156th had 468 wounded and 100 killed. Of this, the 311th casualties numbered 250 wounded, with 21 men dying from wounds, and 73 men killed in action.

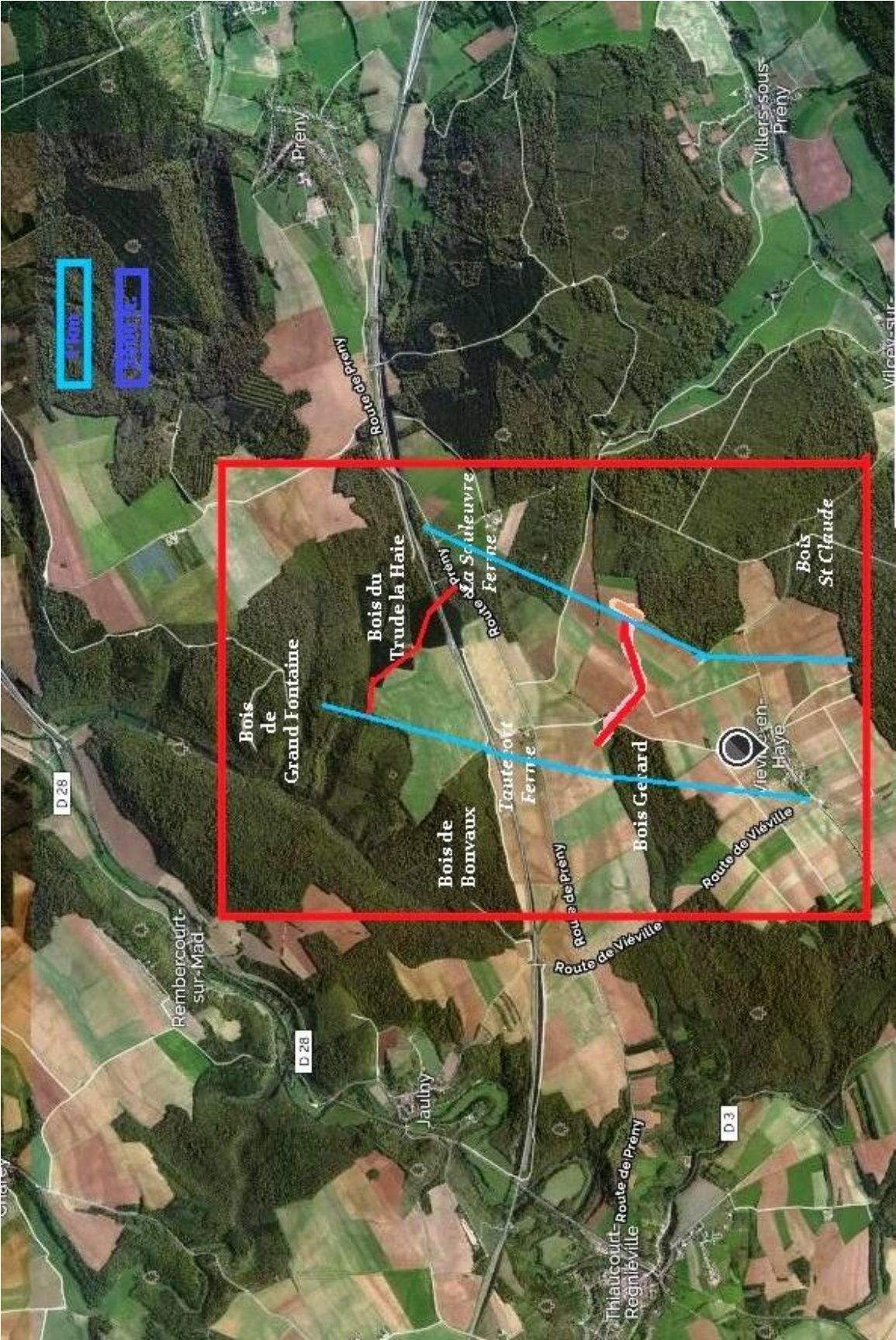


The above is a time-lapsed shot showing both sides using star shells to light up no-man's land and the front line of the enemy. This was used for many reasons: to illuminate a path for a scouting party to follow once it's dark; an on-going illumination would keep the enemy from coming out of the trenches; and they could be used to locate enemy's machine-gun nests and mortar locations.

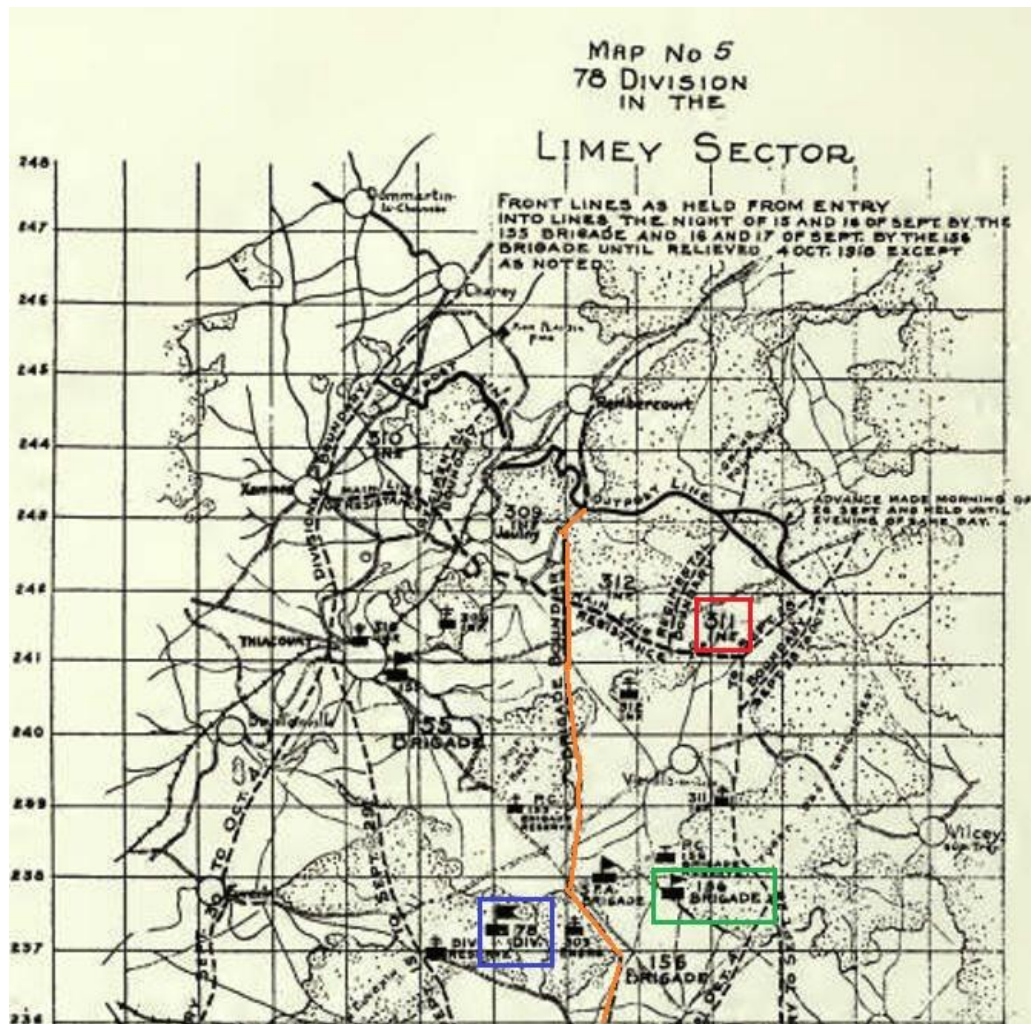
The following 3 maps show, first, the 1918 deployment of forces. The second map is a current aerial view which shows that nothing has changed in a century; not only do the forests have the exact same shapes but even the farms, *Tautecort* on the left and *La Souleuvre* on the right, remain unchanged as mentioned earlier. The third map is included because it is one of the only ones found to date that locate the Regiments on the ground.

MAP SHOWING SECTION OF LIMEY SECTOR OCCUPIED BY 311TH INFANTRY 16TH SEPT-3RD OCT 1918

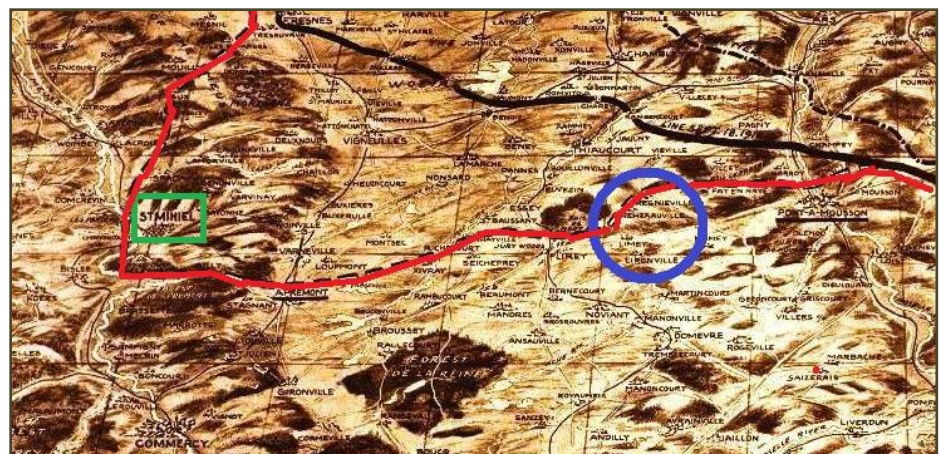




The following map is a rarity insomuch as the markings are down to the **Regimental** level with boundaries and Brigade **boundaries**; most are at the **Divisional** level with an occasional **Brigade** position found.



One last map, this one from Harper's *Mid Week Pictorial*, shows **Saint Mihiel**, the **Limey Sector** and the **outline of the salient** at the opening of the Offensive.¹⁶



MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE



The first phase of the MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE opened on 26 September with PERSHING throwing 9 Divisions along an 18-mile front against the enemy. The German defenses between the *Argonne* and the *Meuse* were compressed to a depth of about 12 miles and included the three lines that were standard along the whole of the Western Front: the outpost line, called the *Hindenburg line* by some and the *Giselher Stellung* by others; the *Kriemhilde Stellung* was the main or 2nd line; and the *Freya Stellung* was the support trench. In Meuse-Argonne, these were supplemented by the *Hagen*, the *Volker* and the *Wiesenschlenken Stellung*. The main lines were constructed with concrete and had elaborate underground bunkers and facilities unknown on the French side. This concentrated defense protected the train lines, the coal fields, the iron mines, and, in the end, the line of retreat which pivoted in the *Meuse-Argonne* area. The goal of the American sector was the severing of the *Carignan-Sedan-Mézières* railroad at Sedan, 33 miles from the front. This railroad supplied the whole of the enemy forces north and west of Sedan and severing would force them to retreat.

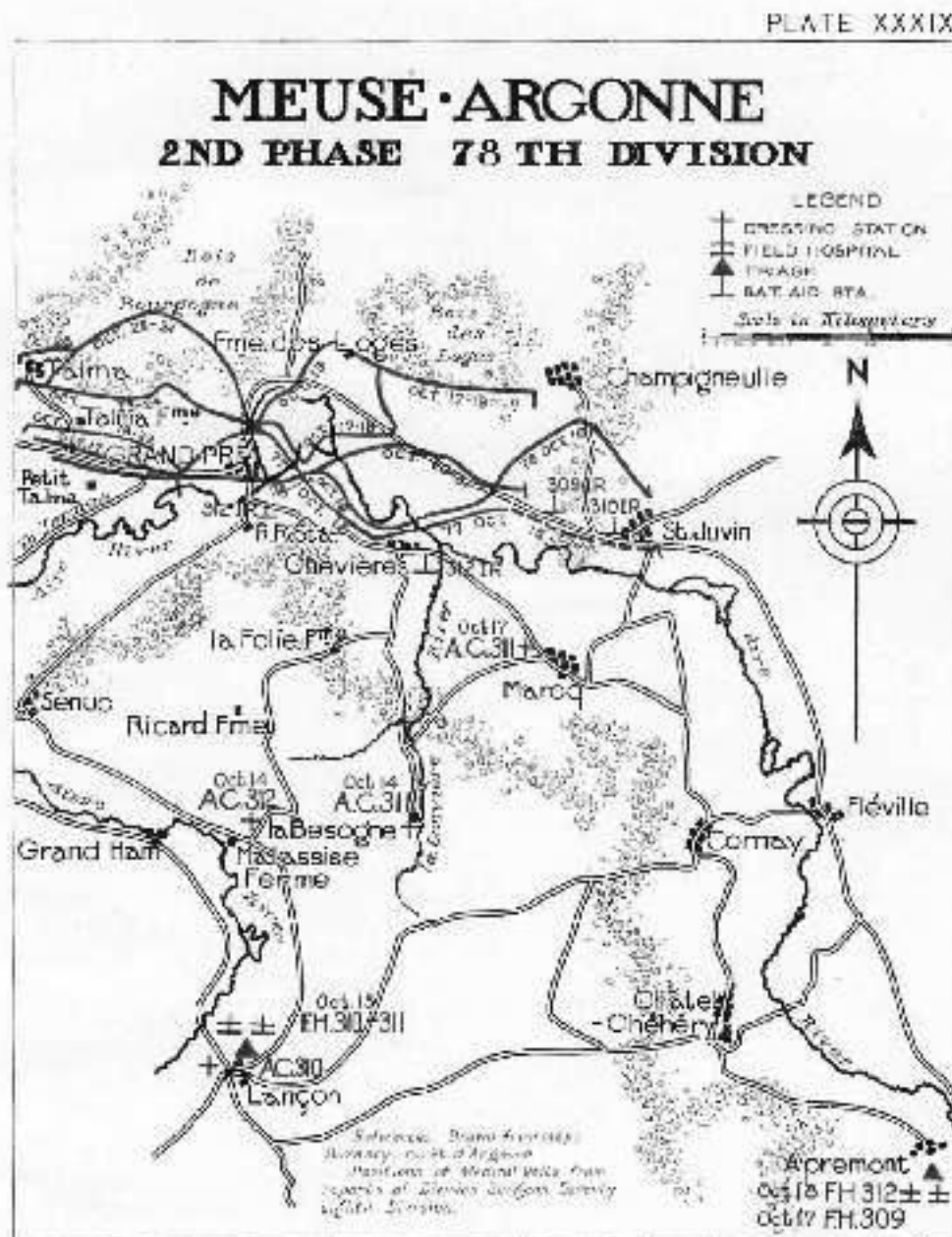
The 78th was officially relieved on 6 October and attached as reserve to the U.S. Army III Corps (activated 16 May). It seems they actually spent the unusually sunny and warm afternoon of the 4th heading to the *Forêt de la Reine*. The 'front line battalion,' presumably 2nd Battalion as they were in the front lines when the order to move arrived, only made it as far as the *Bois des Grandes Portions*. They caught up with the rest of the 311th the following day, arriving at the *Forêt de la Reine* at 5:30 am on the 5th. At 4 pm that same day, the reassembled Regiment marched to *Mécrin*, arriving at 11 pm. On 6 October, the Regiment covered 14 miles in 11 hours, marching through *Campigny* and *Menil* and reaching *Pierrefitte-sur-Aire* at 10 pm. On the 8th, a 3-mile march south



brought them to *Nicey-sur-Aire*, where they boarded busses, and were driven 24 miles to *Beauchamp Ferme* in *Forêt d'Argonne*, arriving at 10 pm. On the 10th they began marching at 7:30 am and covered 13 miles in the Argonne ending near Camp Boucon just west of *Montblainville*; the following day a short 3-mile hike took them to the *Bois de Chatel* where 1,400 men, many from the 86th, were added to fill out the ranks, bringing the 78th up to 16,756.¹⁷ The roads were camouflaged with huge screens stretching for miles.¹⁸

The 311th was assigned to the U.S. 1st Army Corps on 10 October and readied for their chance against the German 3rd Army's Group Argonne.

As one searches their family history, many stories are told, some true, some not. This author well remembers being told by ALBERT that he was wounded in battle in the Forests of Argonne. Many years have passed since hearing that story in my parent's kitchen as a young child but I can vividly recall ALBERT pointing to a brass doorknob and comparing it to his bald head and stating that he lost his hair as a result of being gassed in WW I. I have tried to piece together a true account of the Second Phase of that offensive. This map gives an overview that spans September and October; more detailed maps will be found later.



At noon on the 15th the Division received the Field Order 25 directing them to relieve the 77th Infantry along a 3.5-mile front that night (*see map on page 25*). Since the offensive began on the 26th of September the 77th had been slugging it out with deeply entrenched enemy in an almost impassable forest. As they slowly moved north through the east side of the Argonne, the French 4th



These massive thick walls at CHEVIERES crumpled under the heavy artillery pounding

Division was having similar difficulties in the western half of the forest. By the 5th they had advanced very little, considering the gains made by all the other units. So little in fact that a narrow, but long, salient, around 5 miles long, had been made from where the enemy in the Argonne was able to thwart almost all offensive movement. This was due in large part to 1st Army HQ's continuing insistence that *Grandpré* was in friendly hands despite the many reports proving the opposite to be true. Where they conjured up this bit of deadly fantasy is anyone's guess. At the same time though they realized the need to retreat for if the attackers could close up in their rear, they would be trapped. German reinforcements began arriving almost immediately and much of the spectacular gains of the first day or two would be lost in ferocious counterattacks. With an American breakthrough to the east and a French one to the west, many Germans saw that the war was lost – but still, in the Argonne they fought on. The 77th actually cleared the Argonne on the 9th and had taken *Chevieres* on the 10th but, again the Germans pushed them out of the village and back into the Argonne. By the 15th, they had managed to clear the forest again and were making headway towards *Chevieres* once again. This back-and-forth explains the seemingly conflicting accounts of which unit cleared *Chevieres* – 77th or 78th? They both did – the 77th on the 10th and the 78th on the 16th and 17th.



The Aire River at a point due south of the BOIS DES LOGES



At 9 pm on the night of 15 October, the 2nd Battalion of the 78th division marched out to relieve the 77th from the front line, the *Kriemhilde Stellung*, as the fourth phase of the offensive got underway. The front line followed the railroad tracks from *Grandpré* heading east towards *Chevieres*, rounding that village on the north between it and the River Aire. The right held by the 77th was the western half of the town of *Saint-Juvin* which they had taken on the 14th and the left was that portion of *Grandpré* south of the

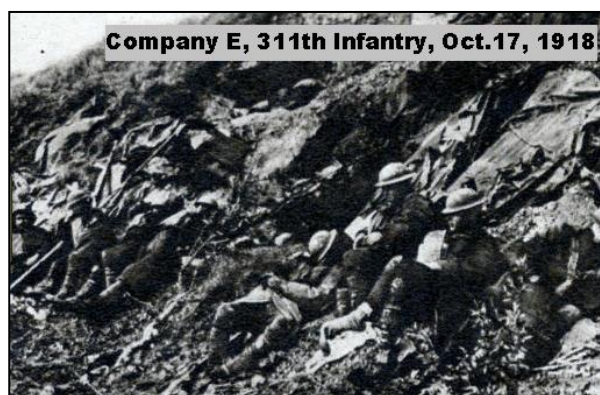
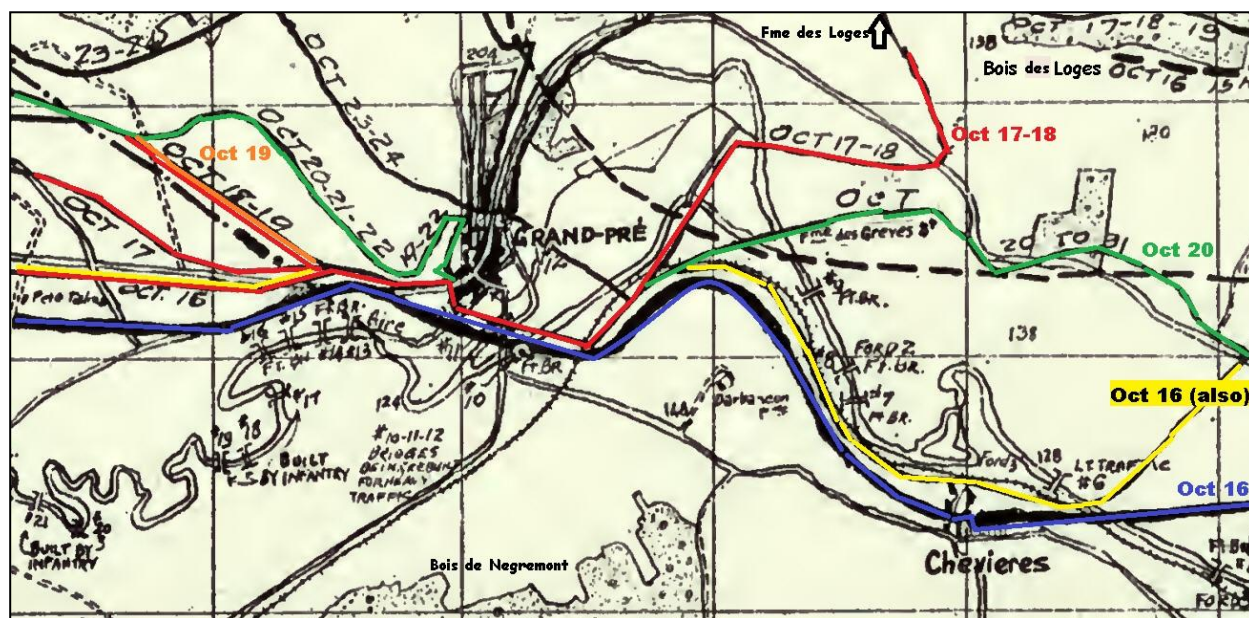
east-west main street. Beginning at midnight, the Battalion P.C. was established in *Chevieres* and the relief was completed between 3 and 5 am. The constant rain with knee-deep mud in some places, coupled with a lack of adequate scouting meant any effort to advance was hopeless. 1st

Battalion was in support position and 3rd Battalion in Reserve.²² The History of Company B, in the 1st Battalion, disagrees with this, stating that, rather than being in support, they relieved the 308th at 3 am on the 16th from their line west of *La Folle Ferme*. The ensuing problems were wholly charged to the incompetence of the staff at 1st



Army Headquarters. They issued some orders that assumed *Grandpré* was held by the 77th on the 16th.²³ Other orders indicate otherwise as the 156th Brigade was charged with the “reduction of *Grandpré*” on the 17th and 18th. CAPTAIN THOMPSON states the 77th and afterwards, the 78th, only had a toehold in the south of town which was clearly reported to 1st Army. THOMPSON maintains that 1st Army told the 78th that *Grandpré* had been taken and posed no threat. He continues, stating that orders were handed to the 78th that called for attacking the west side of the *Bois des Loges* which was north of the town for the 16th, 17th, and 18th. THOMPSON’S scenario is possible but it conflicts with the scenario as presented in the divisional history of the 78th. In that history, it was the 155th Brigade, not the 156th, the received orders to attack the *Bois des Loges*, which is backed up with transcriptions of what are presented as the actual orders. Perhaps some ‘orders’ were later altered to shift blame away from 1st Army staff. In the detailed map included in the history of the

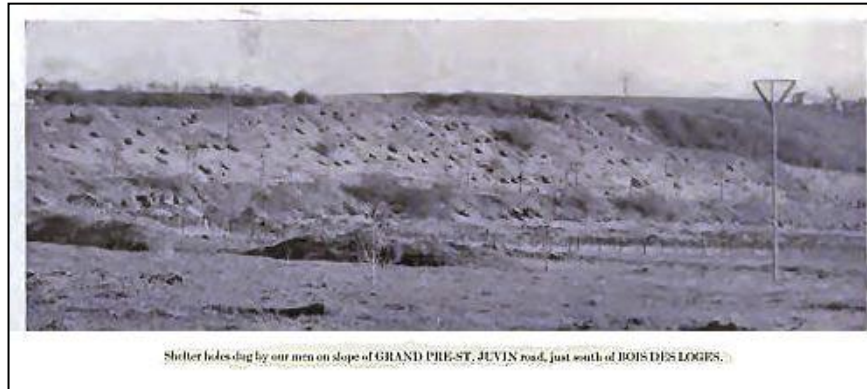
division what is clear is that, even after the war, the positions of the forces were unclear concerning the 155th and 156th Brigades. On the enlargement of that map that follows I have highlighted the line of each day in a different color. You will note that they virtually disappear, especially the red and yellow lines, in *Grandpré* and a couple of other problems such as two very different ‘jumping off’ lines on the 16th (blue and yellow) and an intervening line marked *Oct 20* between those of the 16th and 17th – none of which instills much confidence in the trustworthiness of this map.



While the relief of the 308th was happening, the 311th received field orders to attack at 6 am. Company B, having being informed of this at 5:30 am, just over 2 hours after they took up their positions, was on the road heading towards *Chevieres* at 6, as instructed, moving along roads that were *a mass of confusion*. What with the 77th heading back, the 311th heading up, the 308th heading back, Company B heading up, and there being just one road for all this movement,

confusion is an understatement. In the confusion of that night, reconnaissance of the front line was not done and the ignorance and mistakes of guides led to ensuing troubles. Both the 77th and the 82nd Division to the right failed to deploy “nonpersistent gas,” presumably phosgene, in the *Bois des Loges* on the 15th.²⁴ Despite the hopelessness of the situation, the 311th launched their attack through the early morning mist at 6:35 without the benefit of an artillery barrage and with virtually no information about the enemies’ position. One *history* states they *proceeded to take the town of Chevieres and advanced to the Aire River where two platoons were able to cross before the mist*

lifted. During the night of the 16th, the remaining troops crossed the Aire and moved to the west, advancing the line towards Grandpré, covering a distance less than a mile before being stopped by enemy fire. This conflicts with the official unit history which places the headquarters of the 2nd Battalion in *Chevieres* by the 16th. The headquarters probably was there, after the 18th, but not before that. The two platoons that crossed the Aire attacked machine-gun nests in the wood east of the *Ferme des Grèves* before noon and, contradicting the above, the ABMC Summary states both platoons crossed back to the south side of the Aire that same evening. The 311th could not liaison with the 310th on their right with good reason – the 310th was not there! The 310th did not reach the



Shelter holes dug by our men on slope of GRAND PRE-ST. JUVIN road, just south of BOIS DES LOGES.

front line for another 5 hours, at 11:30 am but, in the absence of this knowledge, the 311th pushed on. That they were fired on by enemy machine guns in the woods north of Saint-Juvin Road, less than half a mile from the river, is a good indicator that the 311th

took over a front line that had not yet reached *Chevieres* which was very exposed to these German-infested woods. German artillery and machine gun fire prevented any advance for the rest of the 16th; the 311th sustained 5 men killed, 21 wounded and 21 gassed. There was almost a mile gap between the 311th and the 310th at the end of the day. The canisters in the gas masks were damaged in the river crossing and there was not enough time to get replacements.²⁵

The Battalion was ordered to attack at 6:30 am on the 17th; the artillery barrage and gas deployment was the duty of the 77th Artillery Brigade but it was relieved that morning before doing either.²⁶ The right advanced a mile to a crest north of *Chevieres* and the 311th was finally able to liaison with the 310th on their right and the 312th on their left. By 1 pm their front ran from



View of GRAND PRE—The lowlands and Aire Valley where desperate fighting took place

the St. Juvin- Grandpré Road, north of the *Ferme des Grèves* (above) to a railroad embankment less than a half-mile east of *Grandpré*. Casualties for the 17th were 12 killed, 49 wounded and 49 gassed. That night, the 303rd Engineers threw 4 four bridges measuring 100' to 139', across the Aire. Located between *Chevieres* and *Grandpré*, each platoon was able to look to a relatively dry crossing.²⁷

The 18th started with a similar order, a full front line attack at 6:30 am. This they did, again with no artillery barrage; they

managed to advance to within a half-mile of their objective but had to retreat under withering enemy fire. Their objective for the 18th was to advance up the west side of the *Bois de Loges* clearing it of enemy as they proceeded and then to outflank enemy positions held along the northwest edge of the wood. They were able to advance about a mile before being stopped. The Germans had about thirty machine-gun nests on the western edge of the wood which, by noon, stopped the 311th's advance. Enemy fire from *Grandpré* and from the heights beyond added to their difficulties.²⁸ The objective given the 155th Brigade was to advance up the east side of the *Bois*, maintaining contact with the 311th on the west side, and sweep the enemy from the forest. The 310th was on the right of the 311th but, by noon,



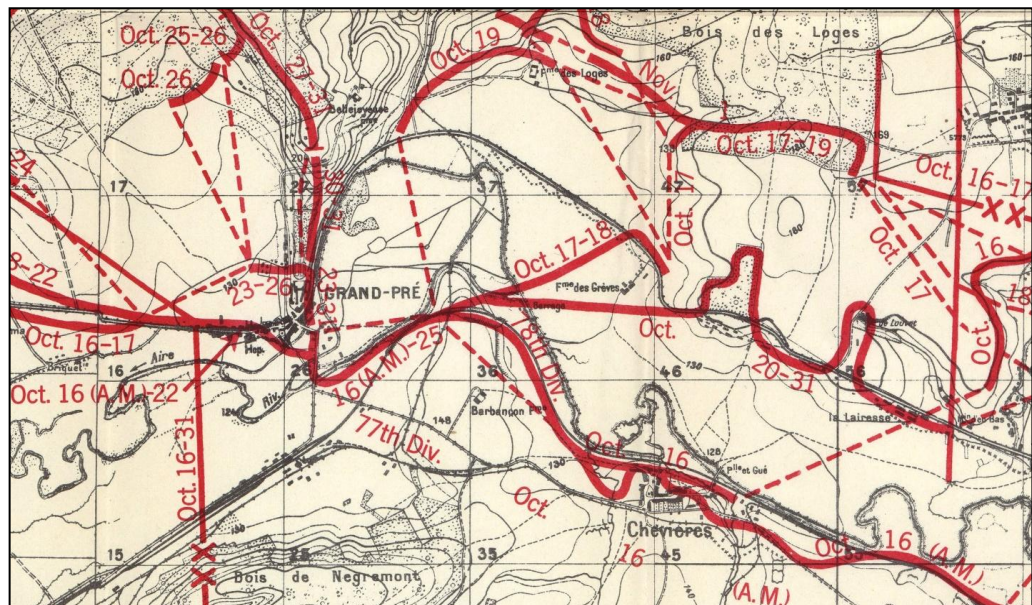
had barely made any advance. The mile-wide gap between the two units, in which the *Ferme des Loges* was located, was occupied by Germans. The 311th could make no advance with enemy fire coming from all directions - *Grandpré* on their left; the *Bois des Loges* on their right; the heights in front; and now from the *Ferme des Loges*, their rear was exposed. The U.S. Army records do not record any gas attacks befalling the 156th Brigade. Hospital records prove otherwise: 867 men from the 78th were admitted to gas



The 311th fell short of their objective on the 18th, though they were within a half-mile of it at one point. They closed the dangerous gap between them and the 310th the only way possible, by retreating to their jumping off point. The 311th's casualty list that day included 9 killed, 27 wounded and 14 gassed; all the worse since not an inch of ground had been gained. ALBERT may have been one of this number but this is far from certain.³⁰ The 2nd Battalion was supposedly relieved by the 1st Battalion that night by 10 pm, at least that's the official version. The 309th Field Hospital records for the 19th indicate otherwise; they treated 28 men from the 2nd Battalion on the 18th, 11 from Company E; on the 19th, supposedly after they had been relieved, they treated 40, with 16 coming from Company E. There were no soldiers treated either day from 1st Battalion. Given these records, the 2nd Battalion did not leave the front lines on the 18th as they were still taking casualties on the 19th, and perhaps later. More research is needed.

On the 19th, the 78th directed a 2-hour artillery barrage that encompassed the town of *Grandpré*, causing much damage. The 311th was to attack at 3 am, take *Bellejoyeuse* farm and advance into the *Bois de Bourgogne*. Since there were no casualties from 1st Battalion and many from 2nd, it is safe to assume that ALBERT, if not already wounded, saw action on the 19th. They captured the *Ferme des Loges* after a grenade attack around 8 am with the right of the Battalion holding the farm. A stiff counterattack was repelled by 7:30 pm but the left of the Battalion fell short of *Bellejoyeuse* farm by a thousand feet on a slope east of the farm which they were still holding at midnight. The following day they were pulled back to an east-west line from the *Ferme des Grèves* on the right to a railroad cut across the Aire on the left.³¹ Other sources say the line was back to Saint-Juvin Road (which is a bit farther south). Eventually, the 311th headed to *La Besogne*, taking up the reserve position. The pictures on the following page make clear the ferocity of the fighting encountered by the 311th on the 16th, 17th and 18th.

MAJOR
GENERAL JAMES
HENRY MCRAE
noted that all
units were under
constant
bombardment by
high explosive,
shrapnel, and gas
shells while
advances were
impeded by
“terrific machine
gun fire.”³²



This 1944 map shows the confused situation had not been figured out 20 years later!



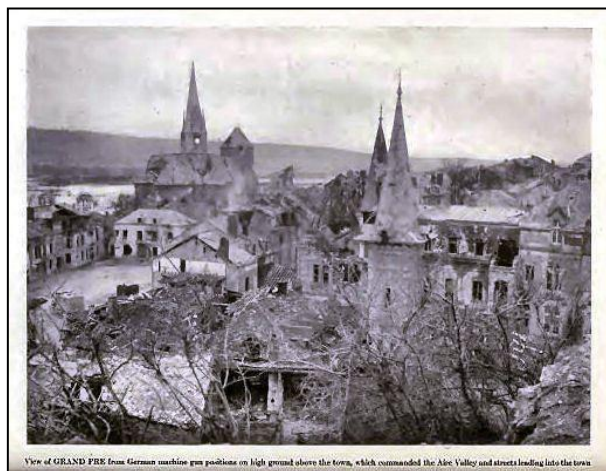
One of the many bridges hastily constructed by the 78th Division at GRAND FIE to replace the structures blown up by the enemy



View of GRAND FIE—The lowlands and Ais Valley where desperate fighting took place



A road leading into ill-fated GRAND FIE



View of GRAND FIE from German machine gun positions on high ground above the town, which commanded the Ais Valley and streets leading into the town



One of the principal streets of GRAND FIE after the battle. German snipers held the upper stories and our men the streets, with a sort of perpendicular warfare ensuing

P. C. 78th Division,
15th October, 1918.
15:30 Hours.

SECRET

FIELD ORDER,

No. 25.

Maps: BUZANCY—1/20,000.
VOUZIER—1/20,000.

1. Pursuant to instructions from the I Corps, the 78th Division, (less Artillery Brigade), will relieve the 77th Division in its present sector, on the night of the 15/16th October, 1918, under arrangements made by the C. G. 77th Division.
2. (a) The 77th Division holds its sector with the 153rd Infantry Brigade on the right, and the 154th Infantry Brigade on the left.
(b) The 153rd Infantry Brigade holds its brigade subsector with the 305th Infantry on the right, and the 306th Infantry on the left.
(c) The 154th Infantry Brigade holds its Brigade subsector with the 308th Infantry on the right, and the 307th Infantry on the left.
(d) The flank regiment on each Brigade furnishes one battalion of infantry, as Brigade Reserve, and the interior regiment of each Brigade furnished one battalion of infantry for division reserve.
(e) The Divisional Machine Gun Battalion is also in Division Reserve.
(f) Latest information places P. C.'s as follows:
P. C. 77th Division at CHATEL CHEHERY.
P. C. 153rd Infantry Brigade at LA BESOGNE.
P. C. 154th Infantry Brigade at LA MALASSISE FME.
P. C. 305th Infantry at 96.6-81.6.
P. C. 306th Infantry at CORNAY.
P. C. 307th Infantry at CHEVIERES.
P. C. 308th Infantry at LA MALASSISE FME.
P. C. Division Reserve at LA BESOGNE.
(g) BOUNDARIES OF SECTOR now held by 77th Division:
EAST (Right) BOUNDARY: ST. JUVIN (inclusive)—COTE 182 (inclusive)—Eastern edge of the BOIS DES LOGES—RESILLE FME. (exclusive).
WEST (Left) BOUNDARY: GRAND-PRÉ (inclusive)—TALMA (inclusive)—HAUTS BATIS FME. (inclusive)—BOULT AUX BOIS (inclusive).
INTER-BRIGADE BOUNDARY, (from North to South)—Meridan 292—Hill 230—Hill 220—FME. DES LOGES (to Right Brigade)—CHEVIERES.
3. (a) The 156th Infantry Brigade will relieve the 153rd Infantry Brigade.
(b) The 155th Infantry Brigade will relieve the 154th Infantry Brigade.
(c) The 153rd F. A. Brigade will relieve the 152nd F. A. Brigade on the night of 16/17th October, 1918.
(d) All concerned will make the necessary reconnaissance at once (down to and including officers from each Company and 1 N. C. O. from each platoon). Special services (Engineers, Signals, Medical, etc.) will confer at once with their corresponding number in the 77th Division with a view to taking over the corresponding service.
(e) Each organization will report to the next higher commander upon completion of the relief. This report will cover the following points:
(1) Disposition of units down to and including battalions.
(2) Location of P. C.
(3) Location of front line and how held.
(4) Location, composition and name and organization of commander of combat liaison groups.
(5) Casualties during relief.
(x) The Divisional Reserve, consisting of one battalion of infantry from each Infantry Brigade, and 307th Machine Gun Battalion, will take over the present position of the 77th Divisional Reserve. Lieut. Colonel A. D. Budd, 311th Infantry, will assume command of the Divisional Reserve at 6 hours.
(y) ALL MAPS, ORDERS, ETC., WILL BE TAKEN OVER BY INCOMING UNITS.

As ALBERT later told his younger brother JOHN, he was advancing up a hill and, upon reaching the top, the Germans opened fire. ALBERT jumped into a foxhole that had gas in it (ALBERT always said mustard gas,



FIG. 49.—Field Hospital No. 13, near Vendeuil-Caply, July 2, 1918

records of the Army Expeditionary Forces say chlorine gas while a 1957 analysis by the Army Chemical Corps state that phosgene, mustard and sneezing gas was deployed). He was immobilized and had to be dragged out of the hole and taken to an aid station. From there he was sent to Field Hospital 309 at Apremont which was used to treat

gassed soldiers (*similar to the one pictured*). On 21 October he was transferred to Field Hospital 312 and evacuated on 22 October via Evacuation Hospital 9 to Ward 45, Base Hospital 114 at

Lightning Division Scaled Grand Pre Walls on Ladders

Four Times Beaten Back by
Germans, Col. Anderson
Writes, They Finally Took
City at Point of Bayonet

The Lightning Division, which trained at Camp Dix, N. J., swarmed into the walled city of Grand Pré by means of ladders, according to a letter Colonel Alford V. P. Anderson, commander of the 312th Infantry, wrote to his wife, who is living in Newark, N. J. A twelve-foot wall surrounds Grand Pré. Colonel Anderson wrote, and the 309th, 311th and 312th Infantry swept forward four times on September 15 in vain attempts to take it, the foremost ranks bearing ladders on their shoulders.

Four times they were beaten back by the German fire, but they rallied and charged again. The fifth assault took the Americans right to the old wall, where they were partly sheltered from machine-gun fire, and up the ladders and into the city they poured, taking it at the point of the bayonet.

Colonel Anderson said that he had been gassed mildly by a shell which burst in his dugout and killed a lieutenant.

"I was called to the door for a minute," he wrote. "One of my lieutenants took my place at the table. When I came back five minutes later a shell had plunged through the roof and exploded in the poor fellow's lap. In trying to help him I was gassed, as the bomb must have contained gas as well as an explosive."

New York Tribune

Camp Beau Désert, near *Pichey*, west of *Bordeaux*, arriving there on 24 October 1918. Records indicate a variety of diagnoses: dysentery and gastroenteritis at FH 312 and EH 9, trench foot at BH 114 and aortic incompetence; and dates ranging from the 18th to the 21st as the date of injury.



Beau Désert was slated to encompass 6 base hospitals: 22, 104, 106, 111, 114 and 121; plus Provisional BH N^o 7. It operated with 7,000 to 10,000 beds.³³ Medical Department records state that, of the 6 planned hospitals, only the 22nd and 114th were operational at the end of the war. At BH 114 he was in Ward 45 followed by Ward 73 for 4 days total before being transferred to the Convalescent Camp of the hospital on 28 October, where he remained for six weeks. While his military record reflects the injuries and the hospitals, his name does not appear in the daily hospital records. ALBERT listed his nearest relative as "UNCLE FRANCIS DEGNI" of Naples, Italy; *nearest* being in distance. He remained convalescing until 7 December 1918 when he was returned to his unit in *Braux-Saint-Remy*.



The photo at left was taken on the 18th of October by the Signal Corps. The men are from Company E of the 311th and they are transporting a wounded soldier on the road between *Chevieres* and *Grandpré*.³⁴ This is the same unit, date, and location where ALBERT was injured. Given the casualty figures, there's a 5% chance the man is ALBERT!

As the Imperial forces crumbled, the 78th started to advance beginning on the 21st and continuing to do so through the 5th of November when they were relieved by the 77th.

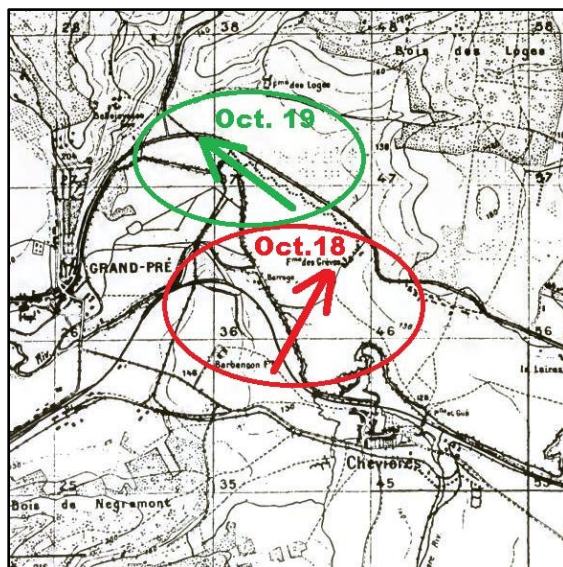
Of the 78th's 493 reported deaths, losses in the 311th accounted for over half – 298 deaths, 231 of whom were killed in action; slightly over 8% of the Regiment (the ABMC figures are different: 697 wounded, 57 died from wounds, and 194 killed in action). The 78th's wounded came to 4,696. The Battle Monuments Commission gives the figure as 5,015 and is believed to be the most accurate.³⁵

The *Trenton Evening Times* of 5 December 1918 carried the headline “*Pershing Praises Trenton Soldiers. 78th and 29th Divisions Among Troops General Said Had ‘Steel Nerves’.*” The *State Gazette* (NJ) and *Trenton Evening Times* of 6 December 1918 reported his injuries:³⁶



"COUNT" MATELENA WOUNDED IN FRANCE:

Mr. and Mrs. JOSEPH MATELENA, of 421 Princeton Avenue, have received word that their son, PRIVATE ALBERT J. MATELENA has been wounded and gassed in battle. He is now convalescent at Camp Beau Desert, France. MATELENA, better known among his friends as "Count," is a member of Company E, 311th Infantry. He received his military training at Camp Dix and went overseas with that division.



This map shows where the 2nd Battalion of the 311th was on October 18th and 19th as well as the direction of their advance. Since ALBERT was seen at a First Aid Station around 4 pm, he was probably gassed between 8 am and Noon. On both days, he would be more likely to have been in the top left quarter of each circle than any other quarter, but this is an educated guess based on the time their attack was launched, where was the jumping off point and knowing where they were at various times on each day and their ending position at the close of hostilities for that day. (The red circle on the map on is the area I wandered through in 1997.)

ARMISTICE

After the Armistice on 11 November, the 311th boarded trains at *Dommartin-sur-Yèvre* and headed south about 130 miles, to the 21st Training Area where Regimental Headquarters located at *Semur-en-Auxois*. The 2nd Battalion detrained at *Les Lame-Alesia* and marched 3 miles to *Pouillenay*; from there each unit went to their assigned location. Company E headed off to a small village called *Braux-Saint-Remy* in the *Marne departement*; its population has not exceeded 100 since 1962. Located some 6 miles south of *Sainte Menehould* in the *Cote d'Or*, ALBERT rejoined his unit there in mid-December, staying until mid-April 1919. Pictures of the village are difficult to find, but he was certainly familiar with the village church. If he was in Company B, he would've been quartered in *Flavigny-sur-Ozerman*, the picturesque village where the 2000 movie *Chocolat* was filmed.



In the morning, they would drill and practice with firearms while the afternoons were devoted to athletics. *The Flash*, the newspaper of the 78th, made its debut on 6 February; its French run ended with the 10 May issue. Each week 350 men would be given passes for 7 to 10 days in one of the designated leave areas including the *Riviera*, *Aux-les-Bains*, *La Bourboule*, *Grenoble* and others. Men could also get an extended leave to visit family in other parts of France, Great Britain and Italy. It's nice to think that ALBERT took advantage of this, but we'll never know. On 26 March the entire 78th Division massed at *Les Laumes* for Inspection and Review by GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING. On 21 April, the 78th Division Association was created to assist the men in returning to civilian life. U.S. Army Signal Corps film that includes the 78th Division encampment is held by the National Archives and can be seen online at: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/89404>.



Sheet No. 5
3 Class

PASSENGER LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS AND CASUALS
RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES

INSTRUCTIONS

Separate lists of TWELVE COPIES EACH will be accomplished by each company or detachment commander as follows:
1st Class: Officers arranged according to Rank, Nurses, Army Field Clerks, Field Clerks Q. M. C., Civilian Employees. Names to be numbered consecutively beginning with No. 1.
2nd Class: Non-commissioned Officers down to and including Color Sergeant (See A. R. Par. 9).
3rd Class: All enlisted men below Color Sergeant (A. R. Par. 9), arranged according to usual formation of the Company, that is, BY SQUADS.

This form when used to list CASUAL military passengers will be accomplished in like manner, but while each class all casuals will be sub-grouped under the following headings with reference to the reason for their return, not more than one such sub-group being listed on the same sheet: (1) Deceased; (2) Sick and Wounded; (3) Prisoners; (4) For Duty; (5) On Leave or Furlough; (6) Miscellaneous. The word "Casuals" and the name of the group will be entered in the space provided for name of organization, and the Embarkation Personnel Adjutant will sign his name in the space provided for the signature of organization commander.

To be filled in by company or detachment commander: Give full name of organization including company and regiment designation.
To be filled in by Embarkation Personnel Adjutant, A. E. F.: Name of vessel, Part of sailing, Date of sailing, Port of Arrival, Date of Arrival, Address.

NAME AND SERIAL NUMBER: CARLE, ALBERT J. 1,748,840
Rank & File: PVT. 1st INF.
Organization (regiment and company designation): 311th Infantry
Notify in case of emergency: COMPANY, N.Y. MAY 22, 1918
Address: 221 PRINCENT AVENUE TRENTON NEW JERSEY

Leave double space between entries. All typewriting must be in CAPITAL LETTERS.

ALL MEN ON THIS SHEET ARE OF "A" CLASSIFICATION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.			
61	LEIBENWITZ JOHN J 1,748,840	PVT. 1st INF.	MRS. PAULINE JOHNSON MOTHER 283 UNION STREET JERSEY CITY NEW JERSEY
62	LIBBY GEORGE FRED 3,340,914	PVT. 1st INF.	MRS. MINNIE LIBBY MOTHER 1005 FOREST AVENUE PORTLAND MAINE
63	LIMKE CARL A 3,752,143	PVT. 1st INF.	MR. CARL A LIMKE FATHER ROUTE 1 BOX 6 FALL RIVER WISCONSIN
64	LIMKE LINDEN A 3,536,550	PVT. 1st INF.	MRS. GRACE LIMKE WIFE ROUTE 6 PERU INDIANA
65	LINK MICHAEL 2,451,538	PVT. 1st INF.	MRS. SOPHIA LINK MOTHER 844 DAWSON ST. BROOK NEW YORK
66	LIRINGHOOTZ PEARSON 1,748,906	PVT. 1st INF.	MRS. JAMES LIRINGHOOTZ MOTHER 44 RIEGLES- VILLAM NEW JERSEY
67	LISTER WILLIAM H 1,280,648	PVT. 1st INF.	MR. JOHN LISTER FATHER SPRING STREET WINDSOR VERMONT
68	LOPARO ANTONIO 2,451,809	PVT. 1st INF.	MR. GIOVANNI BAI- COUSIN 71 SECOND STREET BAGGI NEW ROCHELLE NEW YORK
69	LOMBARDI PRIMIARO 2,411,423	PVT. 1st INF.	MRS. ANGELOINE LOMBARDI AUNT 529 WEST SECON STREET CHESTER PENNSYLVANIA
100	LOMBARDI GIOVANNI 2,413,217	PVT. 1st INF.	MISS LOISGA HAT- FRIEND 28 MIROSE STRE TRENTON NEW JERSEY
101	LOTH EDWIN L 1,768,832	PVT. 1st INF.	MR. OSCAR C LOTH BROTHER 243 WEST TUP STREET BUFFALO NEW YORK
102	LURIA SAMUEL J 2,409,638	PVT. 1st INF.	MR. H M LURIA FATHER 263 MAIN STRE LOCKHAVEN PENN SYLVANIA
103	MACCORMICK ARTHUR W 2,409,640	PVT. 1st INF.	MRS. JAMES S MAC MOTHER 690 SOUTHERN STREET TRENTON NEW JERSEY
104	MALTA VITO 2,410,779	PVT. 1st INF.	MR. VITO MALTA FATHER 263 MAIN STRE ROUTE BOX 78 JERSEY
105	MARCINIAK JOHN W 2,412,652	PVT. 1st INF.	MRS. HELEN MARCIN WIFE 370 NORTH CLINTON STREET TRENTON NEW JERSEY
106	MASI LIONARDO 2,450,629	PVT. 1st INF.	MRS. MARIE MASI SISTER 2 28 SHERMAN STREET YORK CHESTER NEW YORK
107	MATELEHA ALBERT J 2,409,639	PVT. 1st INF.	MRS. MARY MATELEHA MOTHER 421 PRINCENT AVENUE TRENTON NEW JERSEY
108	MAY ALBERT L 1,768,836	PVT. 1st INF.	MRS. CATHERINE MAY MOTHER 36 PARADISE AVENUE TRENTON BUFFALO NEW YORK
109	MC BRIDE HARRY J 1,762,841	PVT. 1st INF.	MISS MONICA D MC BRIDE SISTER 167 NORTH PARK AVENUE BUFFALO NEW YORK
110	MC BRIDE HARRY J 1,762,841	PVT. 1st INF.	MRS. MARY D MC BRIDE MOTHER 412 WEST 3RD STREET BUFFALO NEW YORK

Total Officers: A Total of Twelve Copies of Passenger List are required distributed as follows:
Total Nurses: 6 to Personnel Adjutant Port of Embarkation A. E. F.
Total Field Clerks: 5 to Personnel Adjutant Port of Embarkation U. S. A.
Total Civilian: 1 Retained by Company or Unit Commander
Total Enlisted Men:
Total Passengers:
This recapitulation to be made on first sheet only

HOMeward BOUND

In the last two weeks of April, they headed towards *Bordeaux* in southwest France, landing in *Beautiran* in the *Gironde* *departement* on the 30th. The 311th then moved to the American Docks at *Bassens*, across the River *Garonne* from *Bordeaux*, some 62 miles from the Atlantic Ocean. The units of the 311th headed home as vessels became available. The USS *Mexican* (ID 1655) carried 2,404 military personnel including the 311th Infantry Field and Staff, Headquarters and Supply Companies, Medical Detachment, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, and the Ordnance Detachment.



The 311th Infantry boarding the U. S. S. *Mexican* at Bordeaux, May, 1919



Homeward bound—Troops of 78th Division boarding ships at BORDEAUX, France, May, 1919

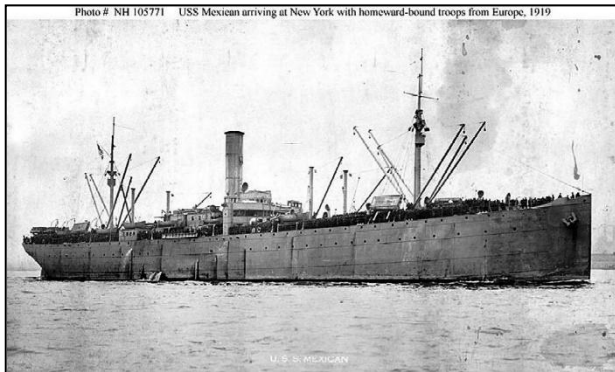


Photo # NH 105771 USS Mexican arriving at New York with homeward-bound troops from Europe, 1919



Photo # NH 107057 Homeward bound troops boarding USS Mexican, 1919

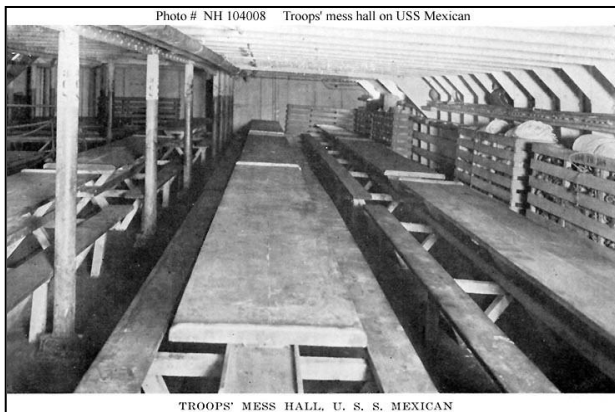


Photo # NH 104008 Troops' mess hall on USS Mexican

TROOPS' MESS HALL, U. S. S. MEXICAN

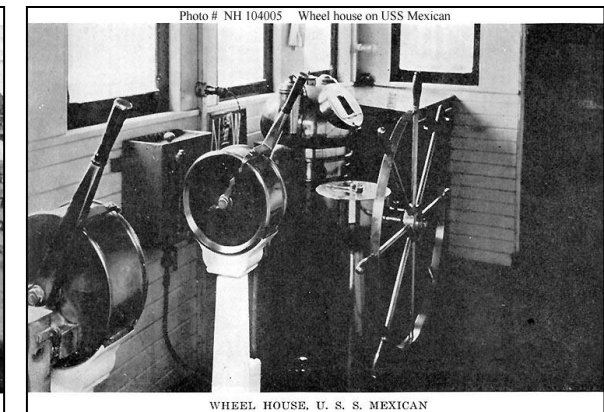


Photo # NH 104005 Wheel house on USS Mexican

WHEEL HOUSE, U. S. S. MEXICAN

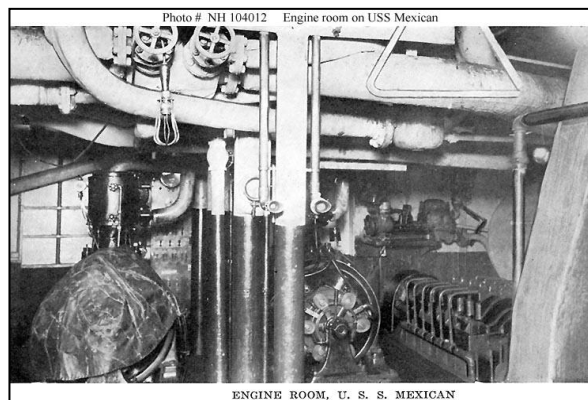


Photo # NH 104012 Engine room on USS Mexican

ENGINE ROOM, U. S. S. MEXICAN

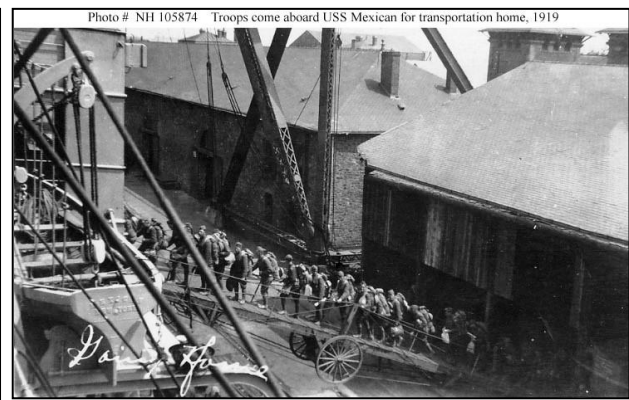
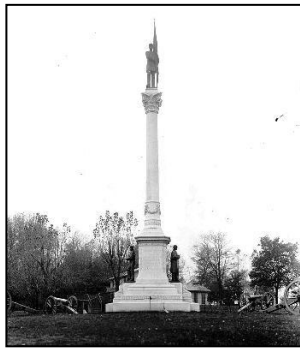
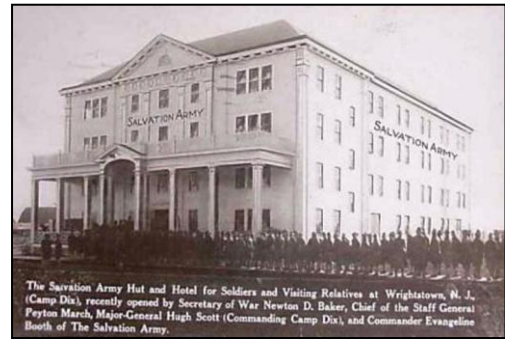


Photo # NH 105874 Troops come aboard USS Mexican for transportation home, 1919

The ship returned to the Brooklyn docks and the men were ferried across New York harbor to Hoboken, New Jersey on the 22nd of May.³⁷ Boarding a train, they were at Camp Dix in a few hours. [Other units of the 78th were transported on the USS *Otsego* (ID-1628), the *Radnor* (ID-3023, 312th, NY 25 May), the *Montpelier* (ID-1954, 312th, Phila, 26 May); the *Santa Paula* (ID-1590, 309th, NY, 28 May); the *Kroonland* (ID-1541) or the *Santa Ana* carried the 78th Div HQ to New York; the *Julia Luckenbach* (ID-2407, 310th, NY, 29 May); and the *Edward Luckenbach* (ID-1662, Infantry Detachment of 311th, NY, 29 May)].³⁸

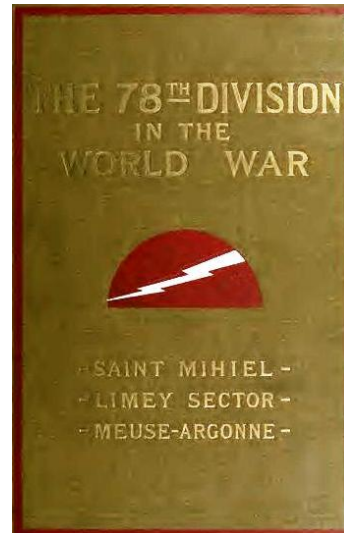
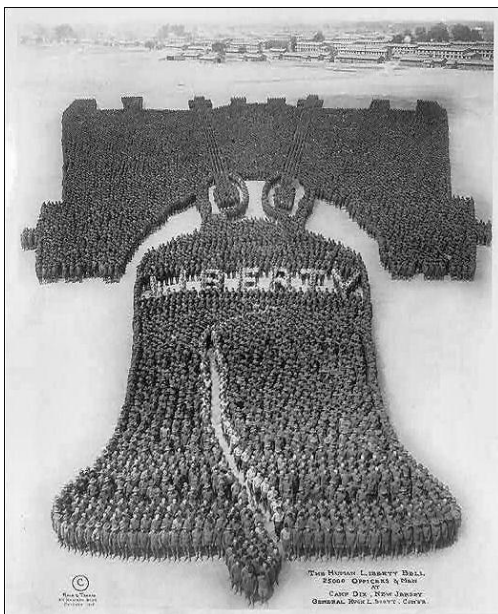


Company order No. 7, dated 19 May 1919 at *Pouillenay*, France lists ALBERT as one of the men of Company E, 311th Infantry, entitled to wear 2 *Service Chevrons* which designated being wounded. He was also awarded the *Silver Victory Button* and received \$60.00 in bonus pay.³⁹ During the war he had the Army send a part of his pay to his parents. While he was overseas, the Salvation Army Hut & Hotel was built in Wrightstown; the fate of this enormous structure is not known.



The 156th Brigade was demobilized at Camp Dix on 26 May 1919. He received an Honorable Discharge in the rank of Private on 30 May 1919.⁴⁰ This same day the City of Trenton announced there would be an official reception for the 311th as well as a memorial service on 1 June for the war dead at Cadwalader Park.⁴¹ A memorial was erected in the park but it is not certain if its commemoration was made at this time or later. Trenton's war veterans of Company E had their first reunion on 21 August 1919 at the War Camp Community Services club rooms. ALBERT was one of over 40 men that attended the reunion which included a showing of Charlie Chaplin's "Shoulder Arms." He became a member of "Veterans of World War I."

In May 1919 25,000 men of the 78th created a human work of art – the Liberty Bell.



The official history of the 78th Division lists 3 separate actions on their front cover yet other sources list 2 – *Saint Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne* or *Lorraine and Meuse-Argonne*. The medals ALBERT received included 'bars' for the SAINT MIHIEL and MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVES.

THE “GREAT WAR” IS AN OXYMORON

Allied Countries	
Great Britain	United States
Russia	Canada
Italy	Serbia
Australia	India
New Zealand	Portugal
South African	Montenegro
Rhodesia	Poland
Romania	Gibraltar
Greece	Japan
France	Newfoundland
Belgium	Persia

Many people, including this author, previously looked at the First World War as a conflict fought on four European fronts – the Western, the Italian, the Balkan and the Eastern Fronts, and, in that, it is correct. Correct, but hardly complete. There were three fronts in the Middle East – the Caucasian, the Palestinian and Mesopotamian Fronts. Less we forget, the main belligerents had colonies – Germany,

38

France and England had colonies in Africa and Southeast Asia and their colonial territories all shared in the miseries of war to a greater or lesser degree. The Western Hemisphere was not unscathed either. The British and German Navy’s fought battles off both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of South America while trans-Atlantic shipping to and from the eastern seaboard of North America was routinely attacked by Germany. The Entente – Great Britain, France and Russia – had nineteen allied countries, if you include colonial possessions as countries, eleven if you don’t. There were the three Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire, to which Bulgaria became the fourth. They had three allies in Africa – the *Sultanate of Darfur*, the *South African Republic* and the *Dervish State*; and one in the Middle East – the *Emirate of Jabal Shammar*; the German Empire had three African colonies that now encompass fourteen different countries and one in Southeast Asia that is now eight separate countries, but leaving these out, the total was eight Axis countries. Twenty-two Allied countries against eight Axis countries – thirty countries at war – it truly was a world-wide war.

Americans are accused of, and rightfully so, looking only at the U.S. forces that served in the war; Great Britain goes one step farther by listing all their colonial soldiers, whether they were Indian (which then included Pakistan and Bangladesh), Canadian, Welsh, Scottish, Newfoundland, Australian or any other Imperial possession as “British” knowing full well that many people hear “English”. Though the U.S. declared war on Germany in April 1917, the first action of the American Expeditionary Forces did not happen until September 1918. The War ended with an Armistice just two months later – that

come to a total of 8 weeks! The War broke out in July 1914 and the Entente and Axis forces had been killing each other for over 4 years before the AEF was in operation! Yet, despite abbreviated time span, the U.S. mobilized the 7th largest number of men – almost 4.5 million! 65 million men were mobilized and, of these, somewhere above 8.5 million and under 9.8 million were killed in

	Mobilized	Dead	Wounded	Missing/Poi
Russia	12,000,000	1,700,000	4,950,000	2,500,000
Germany	11,000,000	1,773,700	4,216,058	1,152,800
Great Britain	8,904,467	908,371	2,090,212	191,652
France	8,410,000	1,375,800	4,266,000	537,000
Austria-Hungary	7,800,000	1,200,000	3,620,000	2,200,000
Italy	5,615,000	650,000	947,000	600,000
US	4,355,000	126,000	234,300	4,526
Turkey	2,850,000	325,000	400,000	250,000
Bulgaria	1,200,000	87,500	152,390	27,029
Japan	800,000	300	907	3
Rumania	750,000	335,706	120,000	80,000
Serbia	707,343	45,000	133,148	152,958
Belgium	267,000	13,716	44,686	34,659
Greece	230,000	5,000	21,000	1,000
Portugal	100,000	7,222	13,751	12,318
Montenegro	50,000	3,000	10,000	7,000

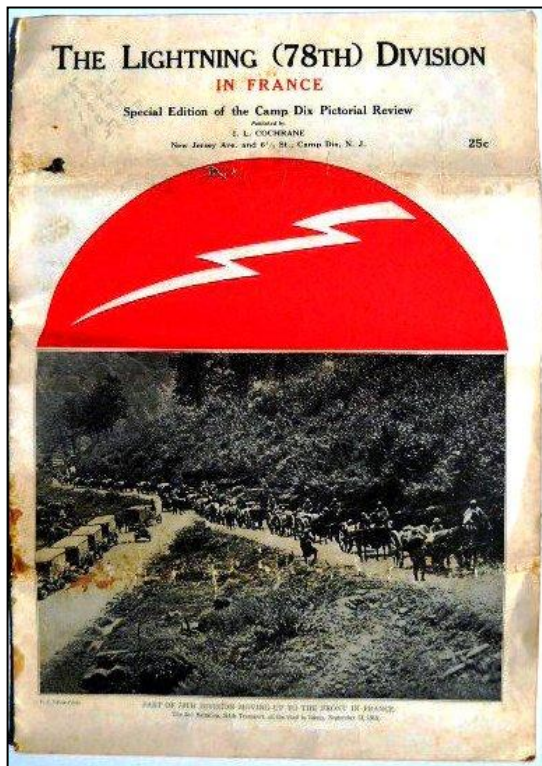
action or died from wounds.⁴² An even greater number of civilians were killed, just over 10 million! These figures pale when compared to the Spanish Flu pandemic deaths in 1918 - 1920 that numbered between 50 and 100 million!

On the last day of August in 1918 the 311th was 3,406 men strong; on the last day of November, they numbered 1,592! The chance of coming through this 3-month period alive and intact were less than 50-50 – now there's a sobering thought – 53% of the Regiment were dead or wounded, including ALBERT.⁴³

NO WAR HAS EVER BEEN “GREAT”

MEMORABILIA

There remains a brisk market for ephemera associated with the LIGHTNING DIVISION.



Endnotes

- ¹ Department of Defense, WW I Unofficial Service Records, State of New Jersey, National Army; for Albert Joe Matelena, No.2-409-639; NJ Archives, 185 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08625; and records of the Veteran's Administration, Bayonne, NJ.
- ² Veteran's Administration records, Bayonne, NJ, for Albert Matelena.
- ³ Some photographs from: Roger Batchelder. Camp Dix. (Boston: Small, Maynard and Co.; 1918).
- ⁴ Walter B. Wolf (Lieutenant Colonel, 42nd Division) and Shipley Thomas (Captain, 26th Infantry, 1st Division) Harper's Pictorial Library of the World War, Volume 5, (New York: Harper & Brothers; 1920) p. 367; U.S. Militaria Forums, 92nd Division at <http://www.usmilitariaforum.com/forums/index.php?topic/191-92nd-infantry-division/>
- ⁵ Robert H. Moulton, "Semi-Military Buildings in the National Army Cantonments," *The Architectural Record* Vol XLIV, 1:21 – 30 (July 1918).
- ⁶ Albert Gleaves, Vice-Admiral U.S. Navy, Commander of Convoy Operations, A History of the Transport Service (New York: George H. Dornan Company; 1921) p. 28 et. seq.
- ⁷ HMS *Kildonan Castle*, Log Book available at: http://2.naval-history.net/OWShips-WW1-08-HMS_Kildonan_Castle.htm
- ⁸ Royal Navy Logbook, HMS *Virginian*, 17 – 31 May 1918. http://www.naval-history.net/OWShips-WW1-08-HMS_Virginian.htm
- ⁹ George R. Morgan (Captain) Commander, Company "E" 312th Infantry 78th Division in France May 19th, 1918 to May 31st, 1919. (self published; 1919) p. 3 et. seq.
- ¹⁰ Thomas F. Meehan, History of the Seventy-Eighth Division in the World War 1917-18-19 (Dodd, Mead and Company, NY; 1921)
- ¹¹ Information on children mostly obtained through conversations and correspondence with Tony DeSilva, Morrisville, Pa., Marie Nabinger, Trenton, NJ and John Matelena, Trenton, NJ.
- ¹² Benjamin Colonna, History of Company B, 311th Infantry, in the World War (Transcript Printing House, Freehold, NJ; 1922) pp. 11 – 16.
- ¹³ Ashby Williams (Lt. Col., 320th Infantry, Company E) Experiences of the Great War (Roanoke, VA, Stone Mountain Printing; 1919) p. 16 et. seq.
- ¹⁴ Information on unit movements from (1) Walter B. Wolf and Shipley Thomas, Harper's Pictorial Library of the World War, Volume V: The United States in the War (New York: Harper & Brothers; 1920); and (2) Frederick Palmer, Our Greatest Battle (The Meuse-Argonne) (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company; 1919)
- ¹⁵ American Battle Monuments Commission; 78th Division Summary of Operations in the World War (US Gov't Printing Office; 1944) p. 12.
- ¹⁶ The war of the nations: portfolio in rotogravure etchings: compiled from the Mid-week pictorial. New York: New York Times, Co, 1919; p. 176. Book. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/19013740/>. (Accessed December 20, 2016.)
- ¹⁷ Arthur E. Hartzell, Meuse-Argonne Battle (AEF General HQ, 1919) p. 10 et.seq.
- ¹⁸ Raymond L. Thompson, Captain, Regimental Operations and Intelligence Officer; A History of the Three Hundred Tenth Infantry Seventy-Eighth Division U.S.A. 1917 - 1919 (New York: Assoc. of the 310th Infantry; 1919) p. 110.
- ¹⁹ B.H. Allen, "The Greatest Battle Never Told: The Meuse-Argonne Offensive, 1918" 9 November 2015, original, unpublished historical research paper written for the historical research class of Porter Blakemore, Ph.D., professor, Department of History and American Studies, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, Virginia.
- ²⁰ *Op.cit.* Meehan, History of the Seventy-Eighth Division; p. 89.

- ²¹ Rexmond C. Cochrane, "*The 78th Division at the Kriemhilde Stellung October 1918 (Gas warfare in World War I, Study Number 2)*" United States Army Chemical Corps (Maryland, Army Chemical center; 1957) pp. 8, 10.
- ²² Barnard Eberlin (Captain), *History of the 311th Infantry (78th Division)* (Flavigny-sur-Ozérain, France; 1919).
- ²³ *Op.cit.* Thompson. *A History of the Three Hundred Tenth Infantry*. p.138.
- ²⁴ *vide supra* Cochrane, "*The 78th Division at the Kriemhilde Stellung*", p. 11.
- ²⁵ *vide supra* Cochrane, "*The 78th Division at the Kriemhilde Stellung*", p. 22.
- ²⁶ *vide supra* Cochrane, "*The 78th Division at the Kriemhilde Stellung*", p. 14.
- ²⁷ Joseph P.C. Roth, Sergeant, *History of Company "E" 303d Engineers of the 78th Division* (Rochester, NY: Joseph P. Smith Printers; 1919) p.126.
- ²⁸ *Op.Cit.*, Merriman (fn 111)
- ²⁹ *vide supra* Cochrane, "*The 78th Division at the Kriemhilde Stellung*", pp. 23, 24, 67.
- ³⁰ The 309th Field Hospital records are the only ones obtained for the 18th and 19th. The 312th FH records for the 21st have been obtained. Still needed are the 310th, 311th, and 312th for the 18th – 20th. NARC Record Group 120.9.4 – records of 156th Brigade and 309th – 312th Regs. RG 120.9.3 Maps 78th Div – 35 items
- ³¹ *Op.cit.* American Battle Monuments Commission; *78th Division Summary*; pp. 24-31.
- ³² *vide supra* Cochrane, "*The 78th Division at the Kriemhilde Stellung*", p. 19.
- ³³ Antonin Guiullot, *The American Camp at Allerey (1918 – 1919)* "The American Hospital Centers" (1999) <http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/wwi/comment/Allerey/Allerey03e.html>
- ³⁴ Collection of Harry Rupert, Chatel-Chéhéry, France.
- ³⁵ *vide supra* Cochrane, "*The 78th Division at the Kriemhilde Stellung*", p. 64. (Possibly referring to endnote 15)
- ³⁶ "Count" Matelena Wounded in France" *The State Gazette*, 6 December 1918, p.3, Trenton, NJ; and "Five Local Boys Among Wounded. Badstenbner, Matalena, Radice, Poland and Keegan on Casualty List" *Trenton Evening Times*, 6 December 1918, p.2, Trenton, NJ.
- ³⁷ *The Sun* (NY), 22 May 1919, p. 7; *The Evening World* (NY), 22May 1919, p. 1;
- ³⁸ *The Sun* (NY), 25 May 1919, p. 14; *New York Tribune*, 26 May 1919, p. 11; 30 May 1919, p. 13; *The Sun* (NY), 28 May 1919, p. 11
- ³⁹ Veteran's Administration records, Bayonne, NJ, for Albert Matelena.
- ⁴⁰ Statement of Service of Albert Matelena, No. 2-409-639; Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63132
- ⁴¹ Notice appeared in the *Trenton Times* or the *True American*, 26 May 1919.
- ⁴² Chart is from <http://www.worldwar1.com/tlcrates.htm>
- ⁴³ *Op.cit.* American Battle Monuments Commission; *78th Division Summary*; p. 48.

TERRAIN PHOTOGRAPHS
AMERICAN WORLD WAR BATTLEFIELDS
IN EUROPE

78TH DIVISION
MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE
OCTOBER 10 - NOVEMBER 5, 1918

PREPARED BY
THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS
COMMISSION

PREFACE

THIS album is part of a collection of photographs of the various battlefields in Europe upon which the Armed Forces of the United States were actively engaged during World War I.

These terrain photographs were taken and prepared by the American Battle Monuments Commission, as provided in the act of Congress of March 4, 1923, to complete the historical record of the operations of the American units. The series comprises 69 albums containing 1,396 photographs.

The contents of these albums will be of particular value when studied in conjunction with the Summaries of Operations, prepared by the American Battle Monuments Commission, which relate in detail the combat services of each American division.

On the page preceding the photographs will be found a small-scale key map showing the general operation of which this divisional operation was a part. In the pocket inside the back cover will be found a reprint of a 1:20,000 map, of the type used during the war, showing the operation covered by the photographs in this

album. On this index map have been indicated the position of the camera and the direction in which it was sighted in taking each photograph.

On the page opposite each photograph is a section of the 1:20,000 map of the terrain in the vicinity of that pertaining to the photograph. The white wedge-shaped portion of the map indicates the sector of terrain which actually appears in the picture. The plotted position of the camera and the axis of the picture are shown in blue, the length of the blue line approximately indicating the depth of the view. The circled number corresponds to the number of the photograph, of which the numerals before the dash indicate the division and the numerals after the dash indicate the serial number of the photograph in this division.

Various topographical features visible in the photographs have been indicated by name to facilitate orientation.

Complete sets of these albums have been deposited with the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Historical Division of the War Department General Staff, and the Command and Staff College.

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION,

John J. Pershing
CHAIRMAN

NOV 22 1926

78TH DIVISION
MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE
OCTOBER 10—NOVEMBER 5, 1918

THE AMERICAN FIRST ARMY
SEPTEMBER 26-NOVEMBER 11, 1918

KEY MAP
MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE

THE AMERICAN FIRST ARMY
SEPTEMBER 26–NOVEMBER 11, 1918

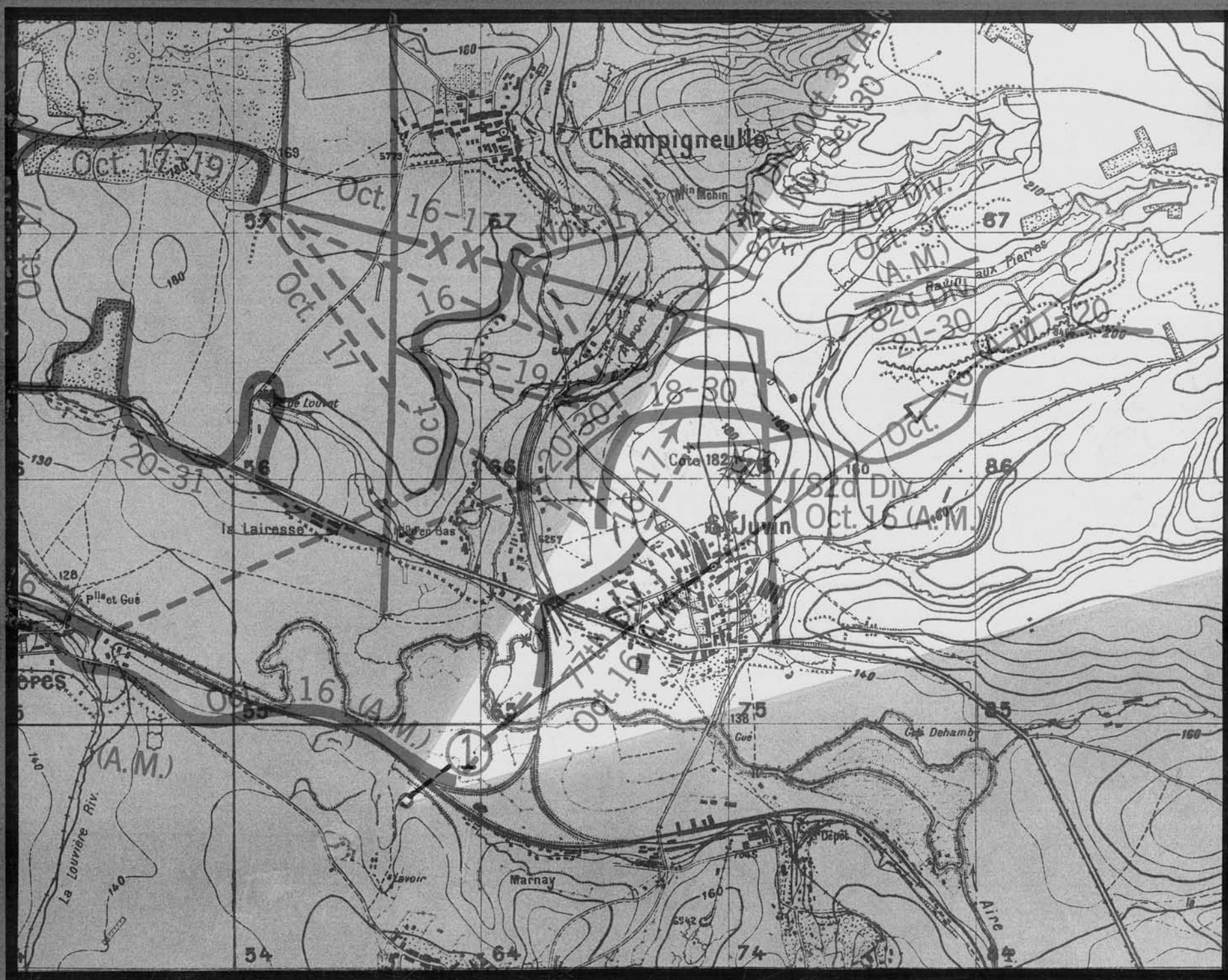
Area Covered by Operation Shown on Summary Map
Ground Gained by American Divisions
Ground Gained by French Divisions
Front Line
Circled numeral indicates American division

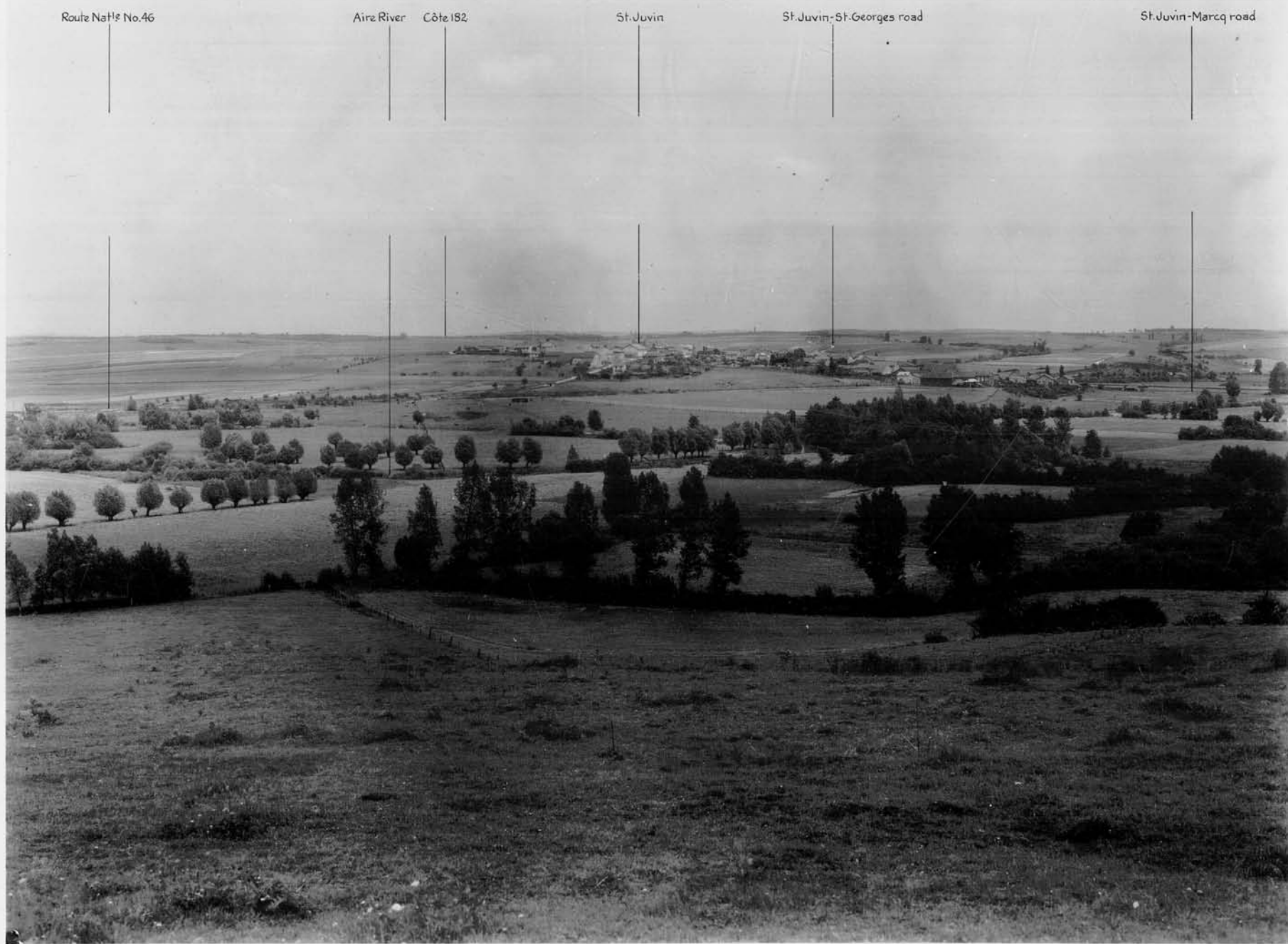
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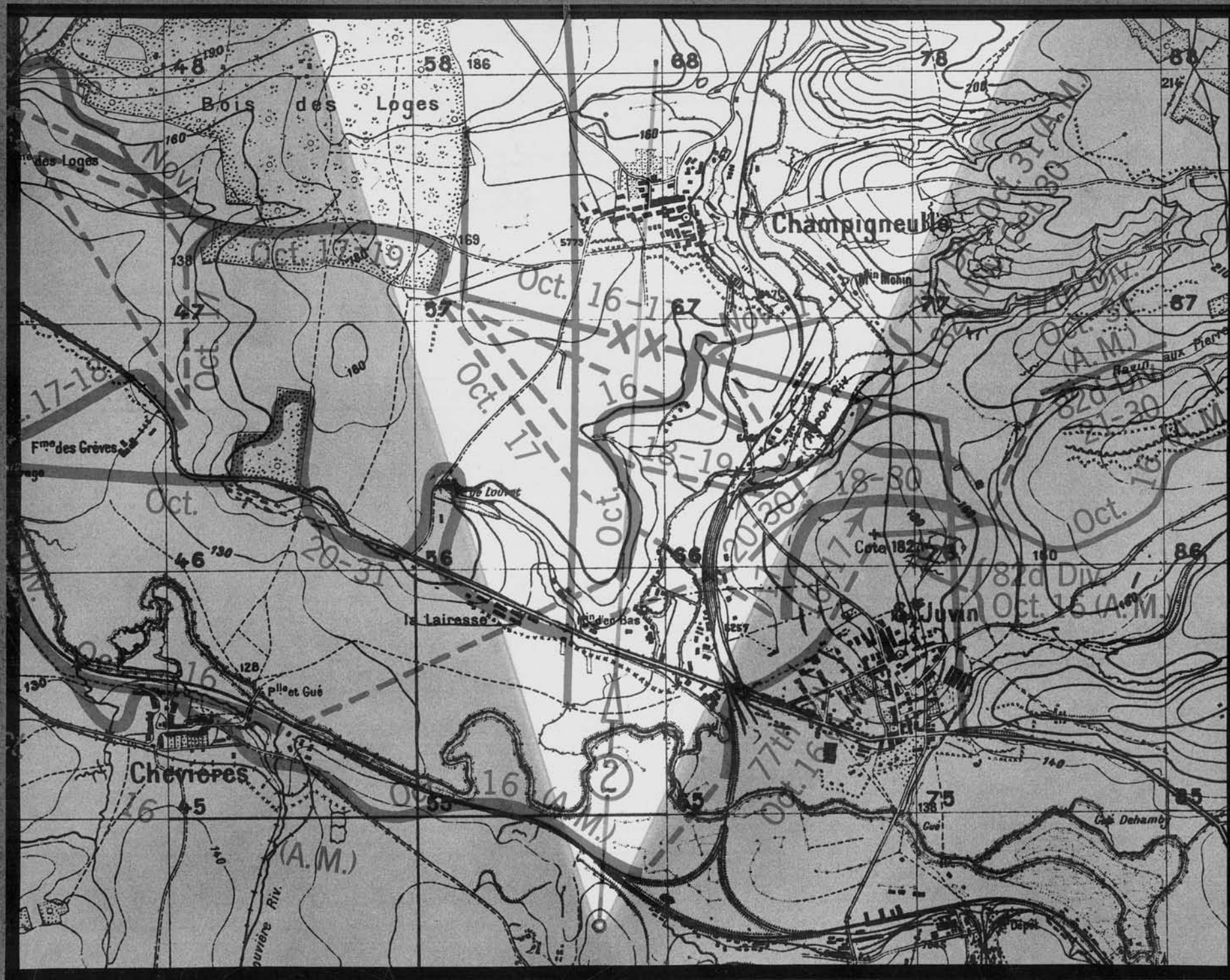
SCALE OF KEY MAP

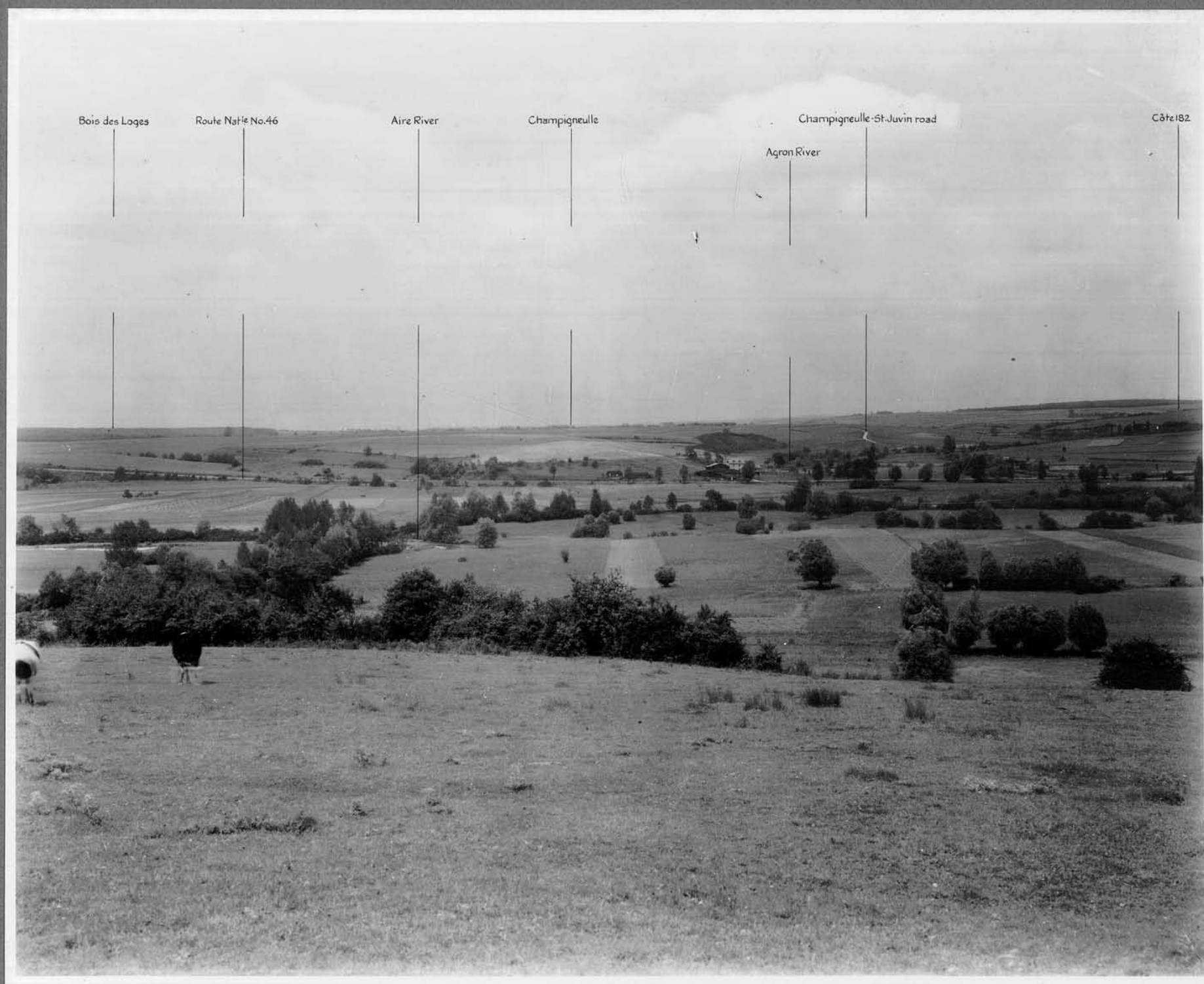
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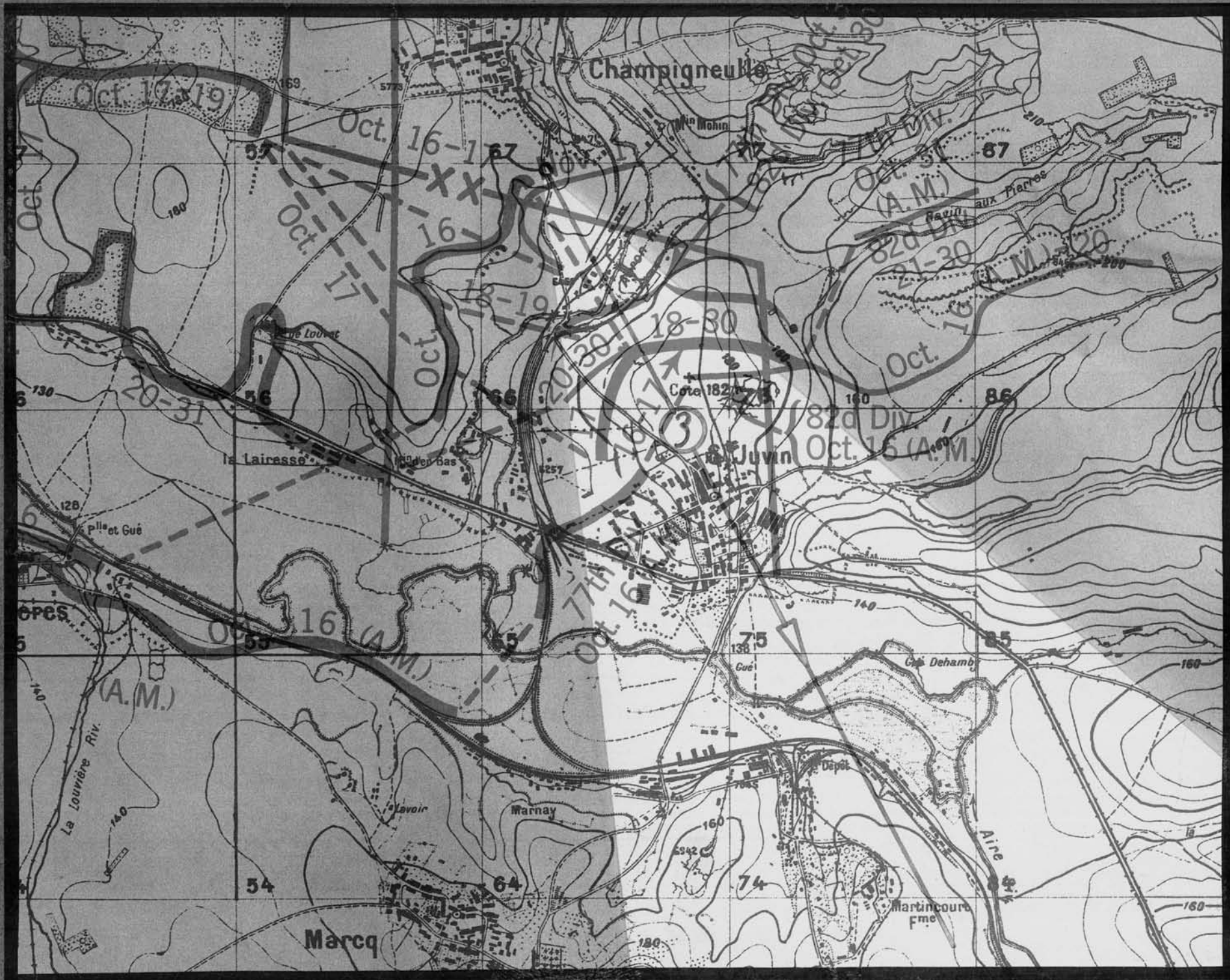
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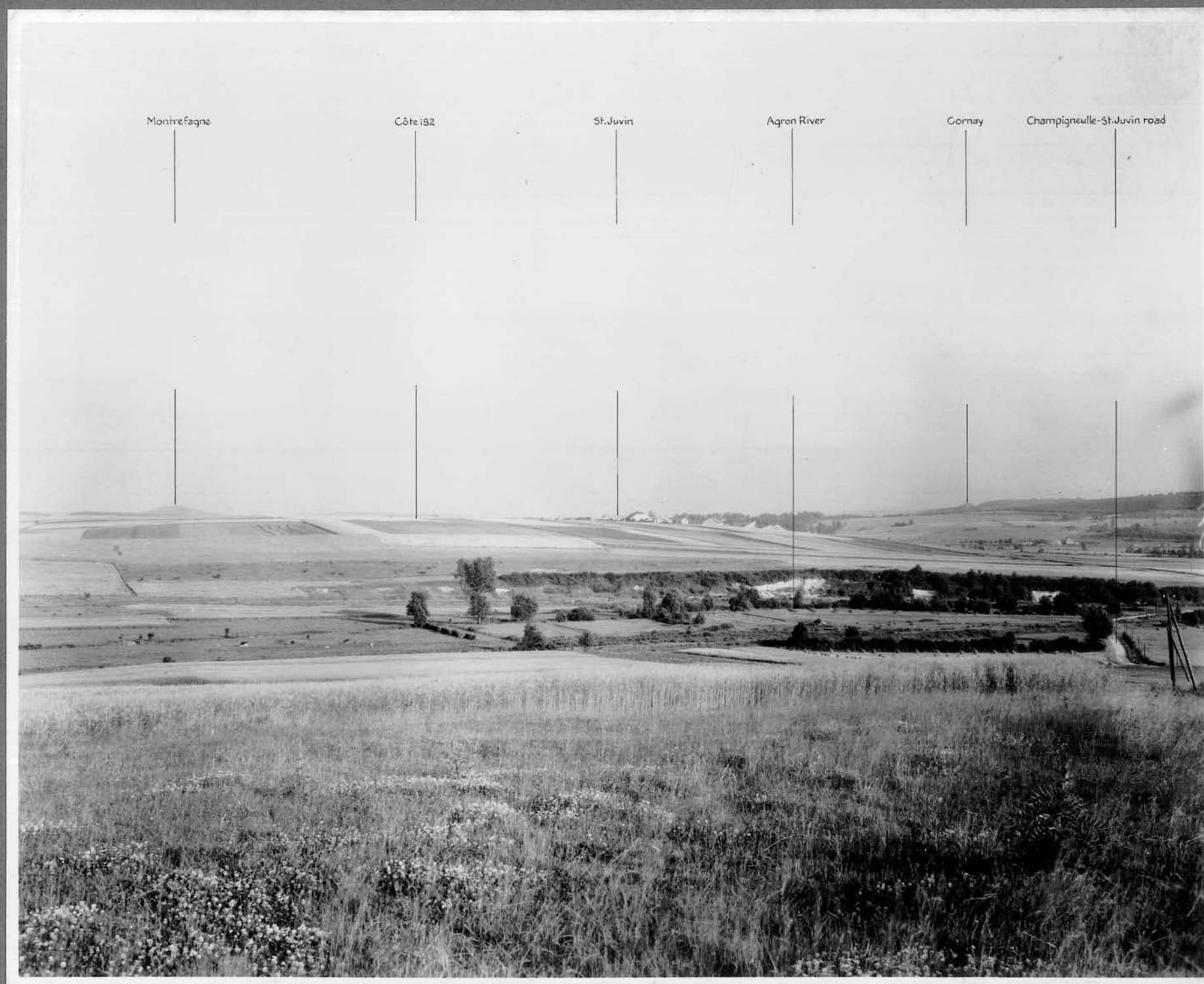


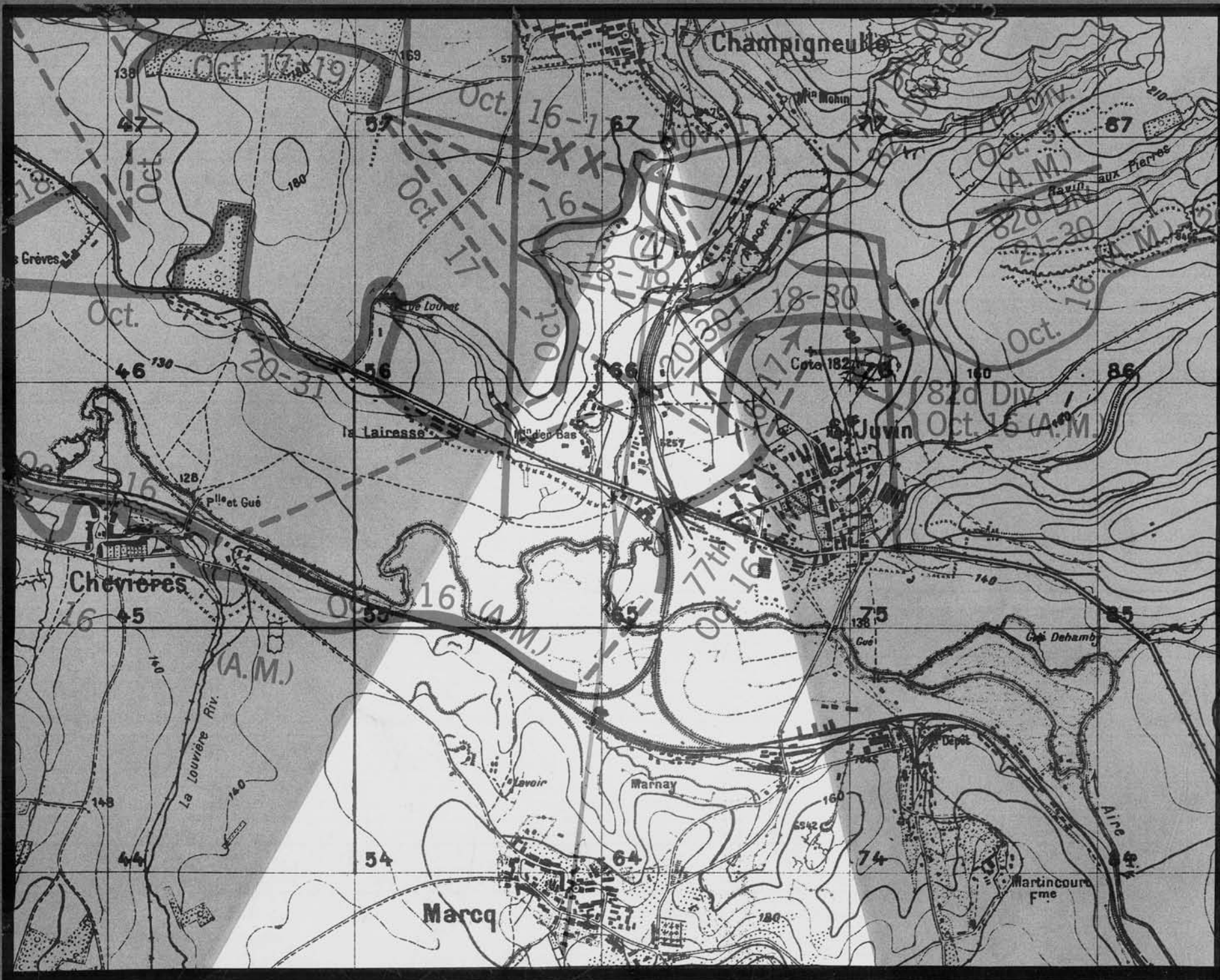












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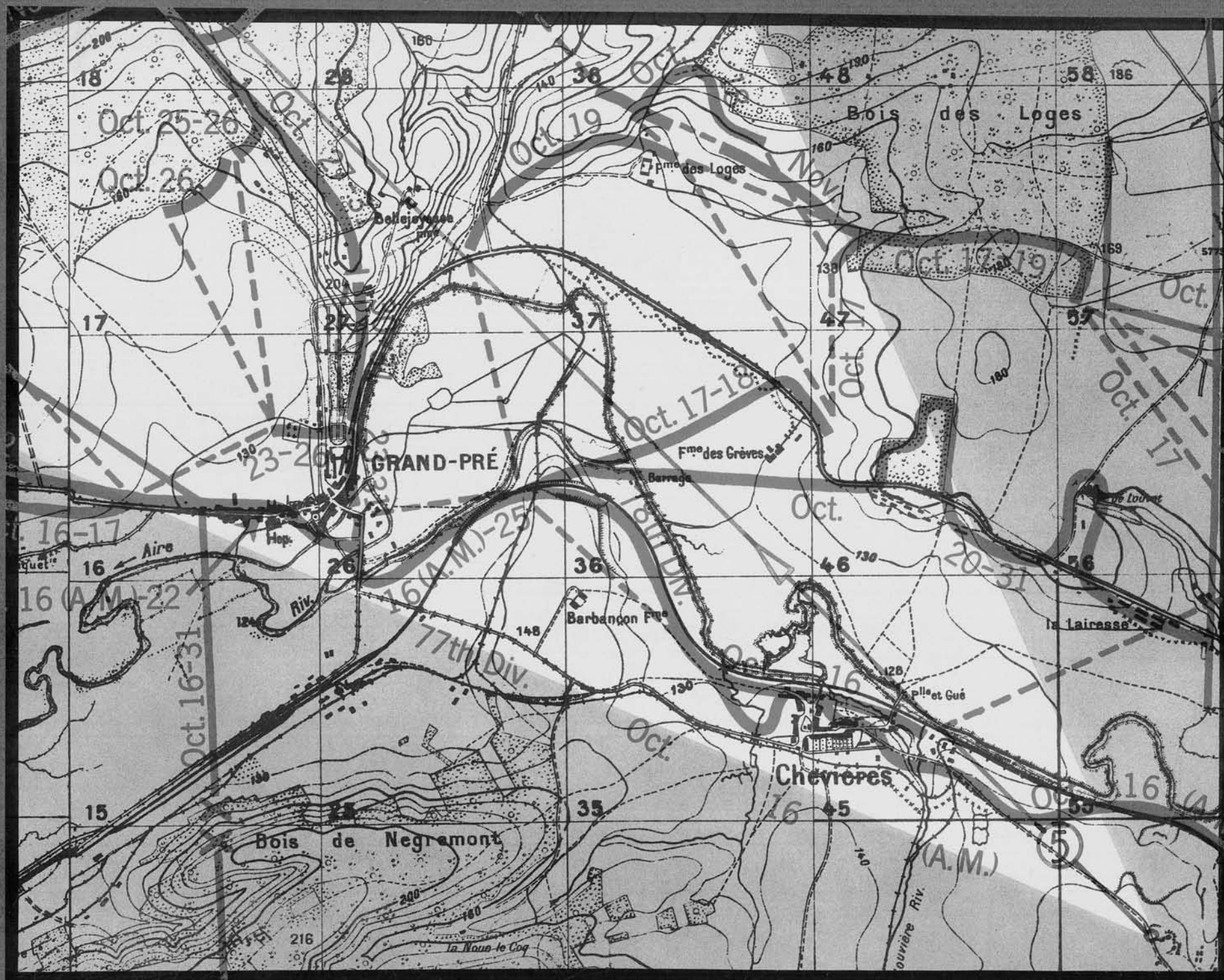
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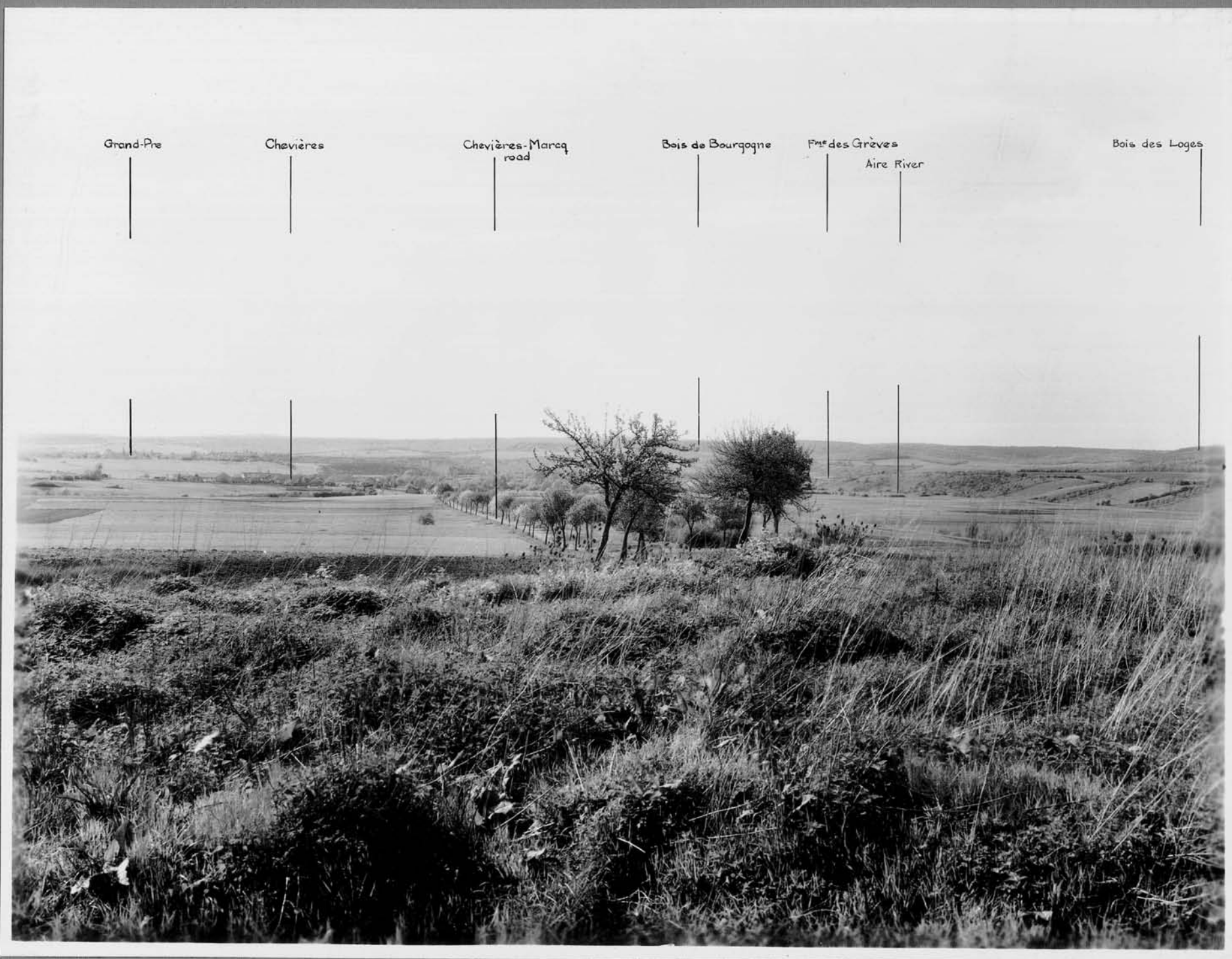
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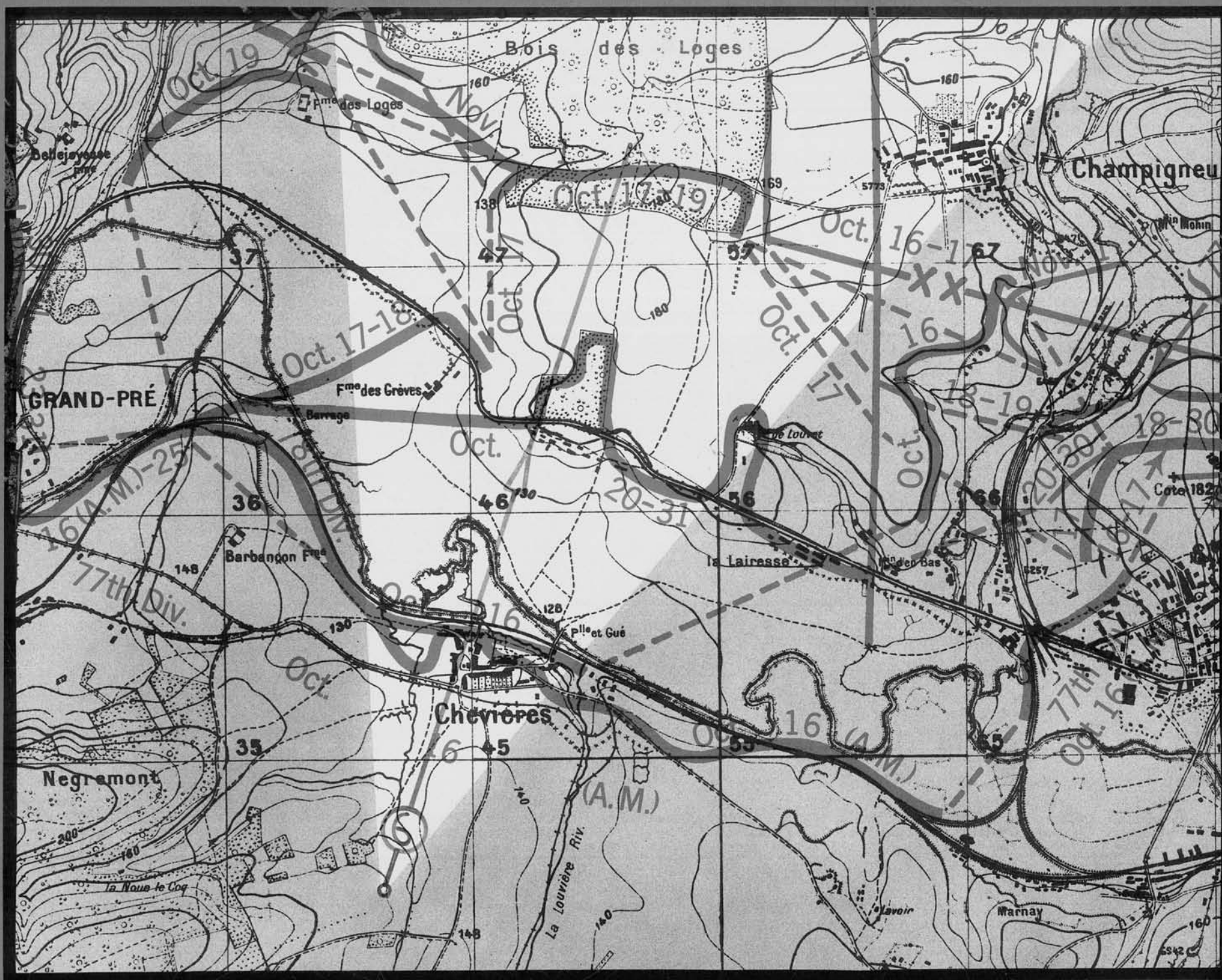
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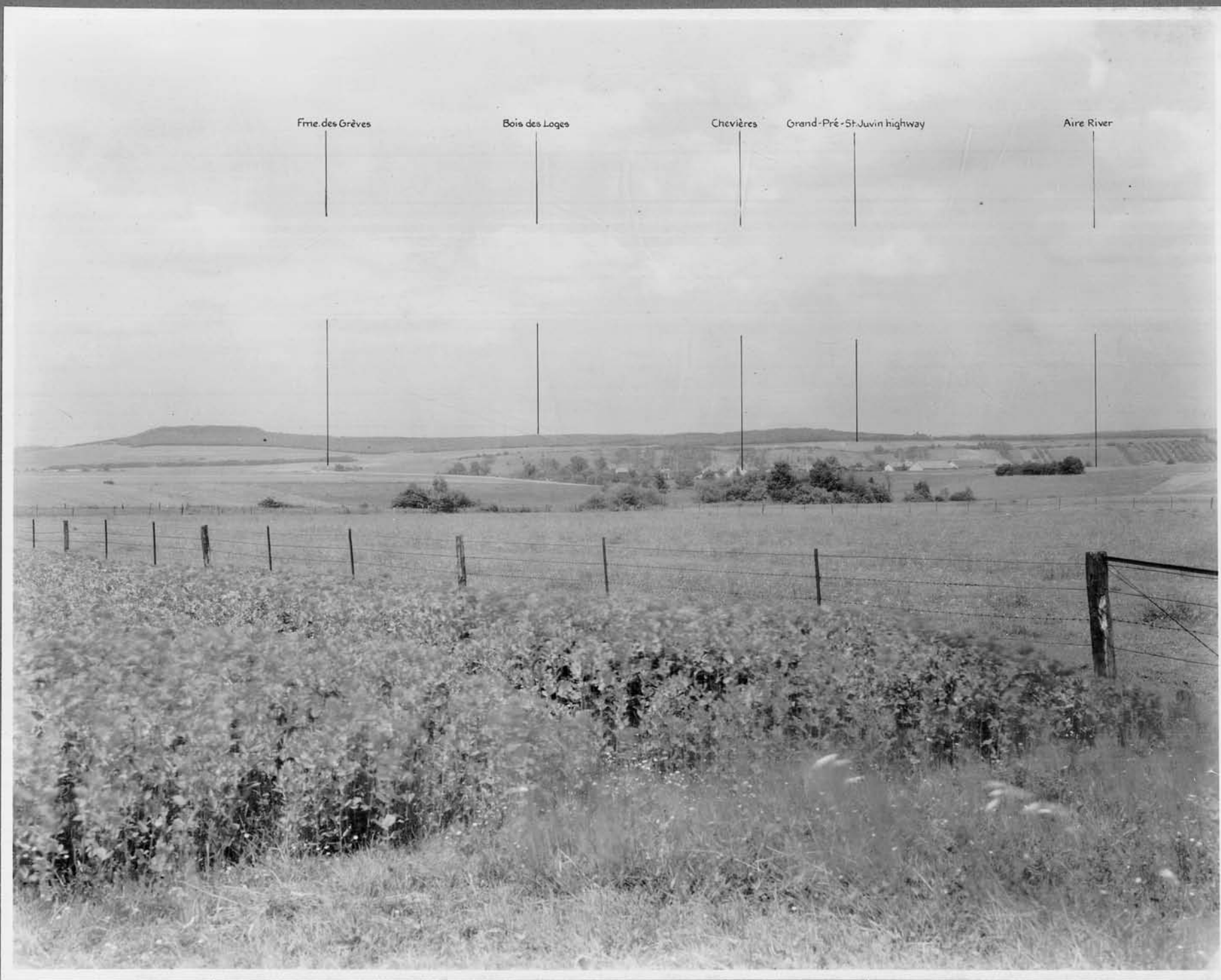
Marcq - Chevières road

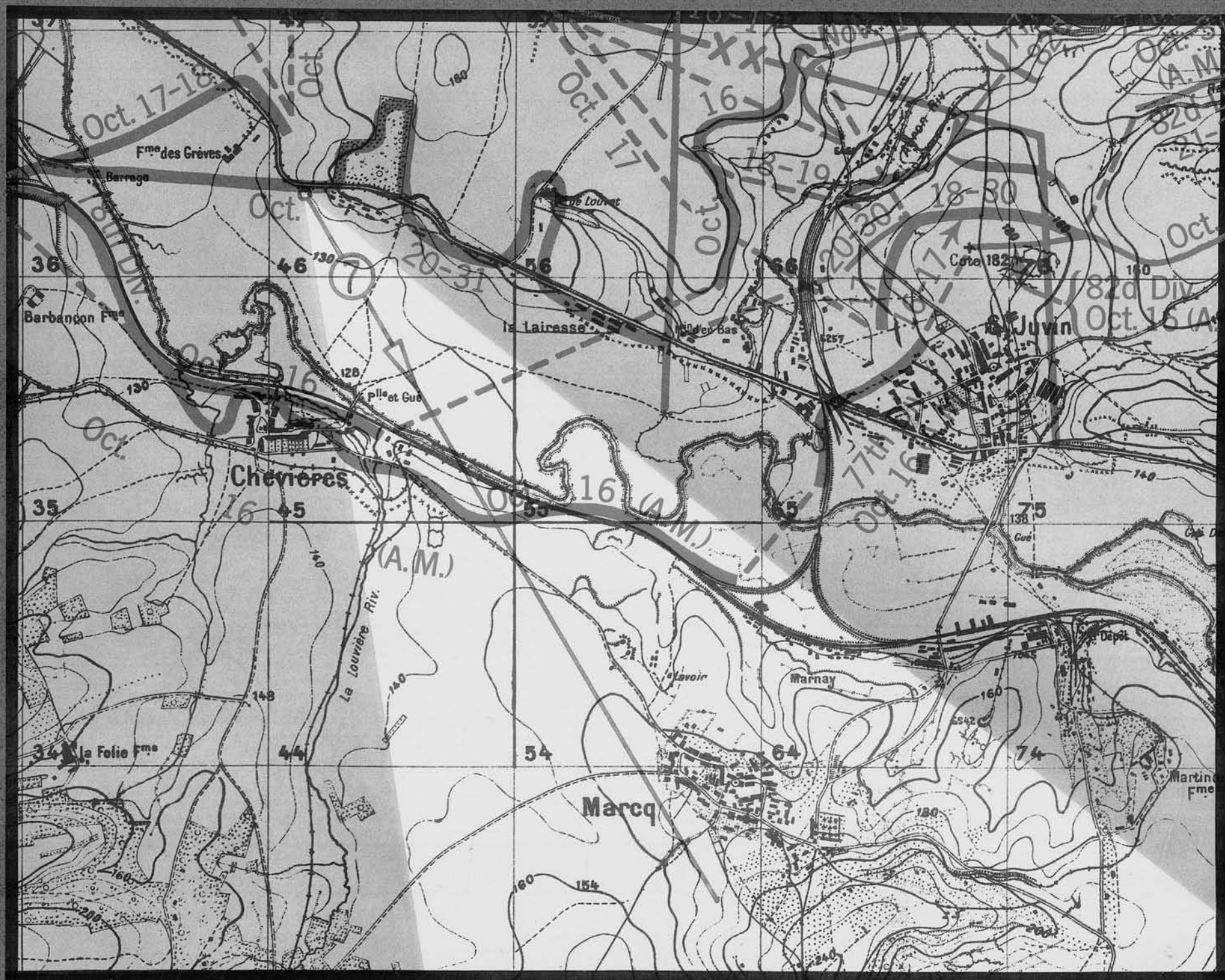




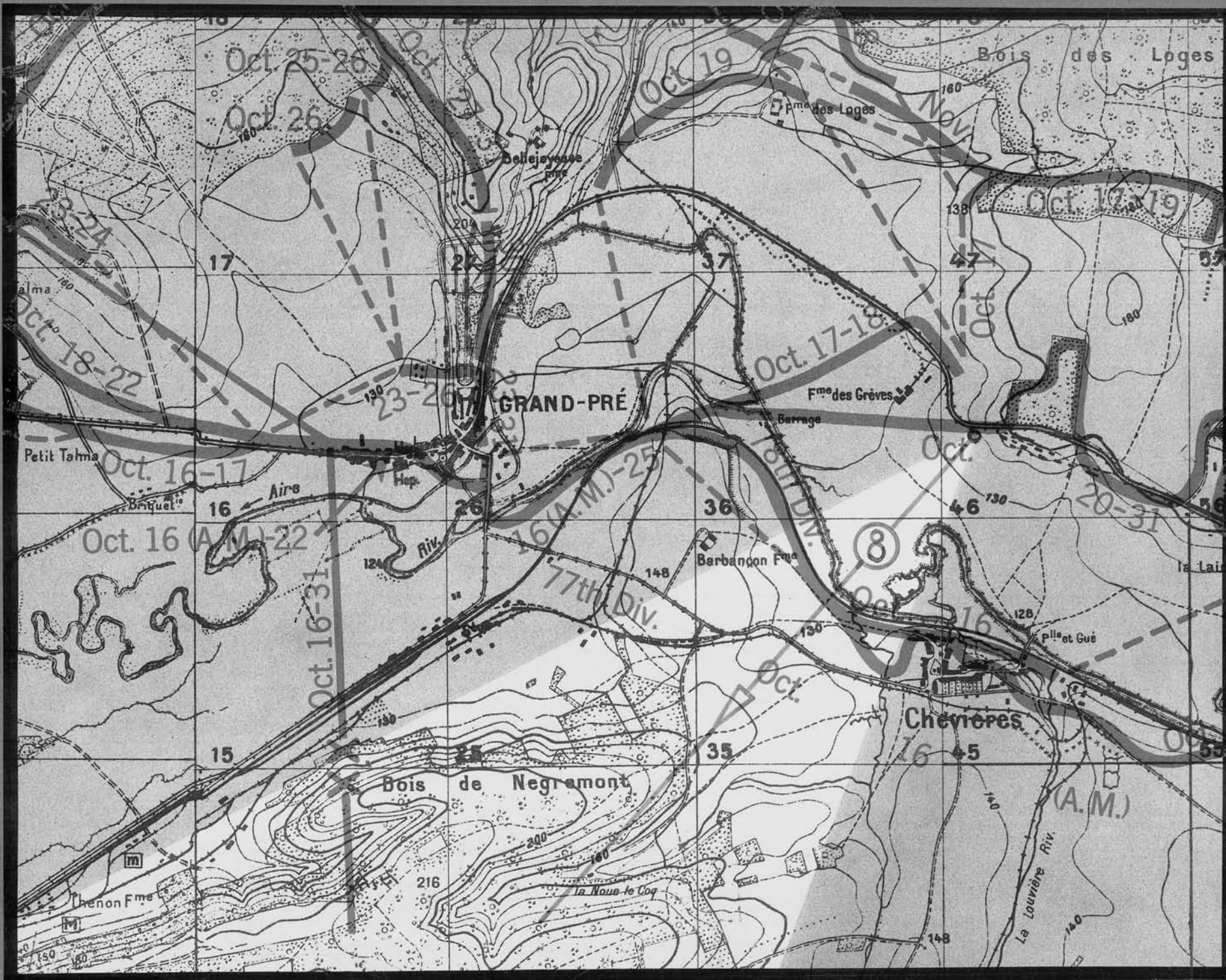












Chevières

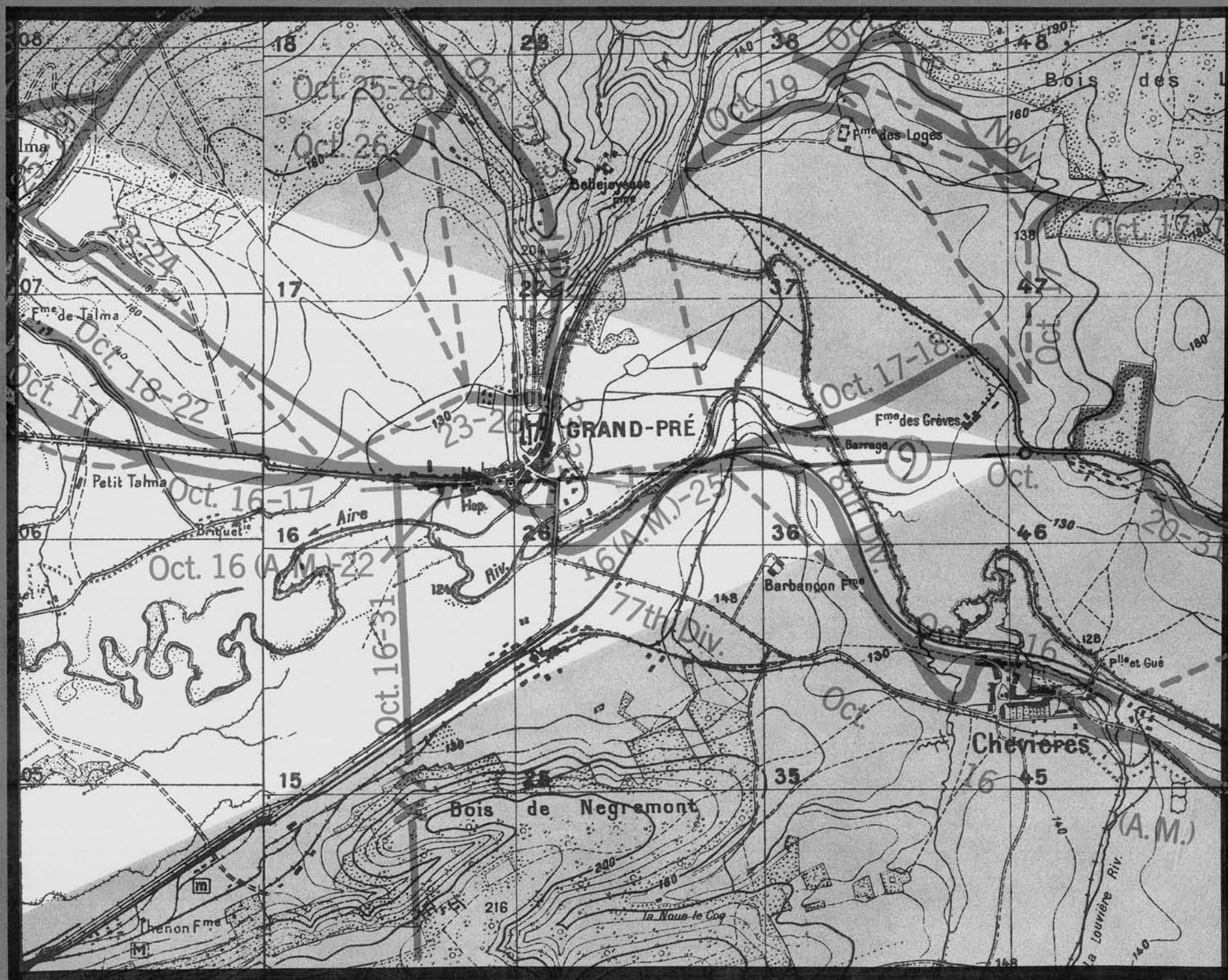
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Chevières-Grand-Pre road

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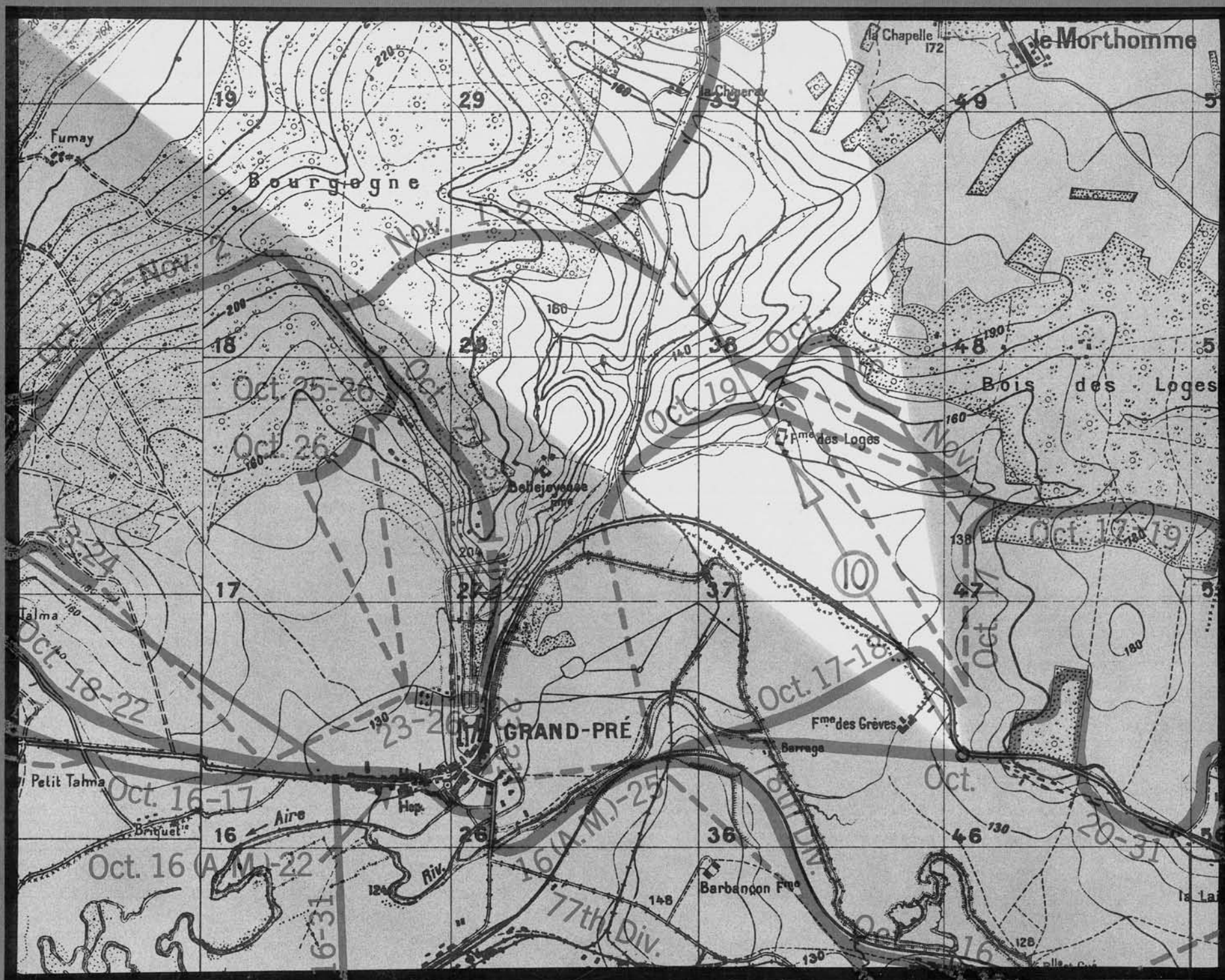
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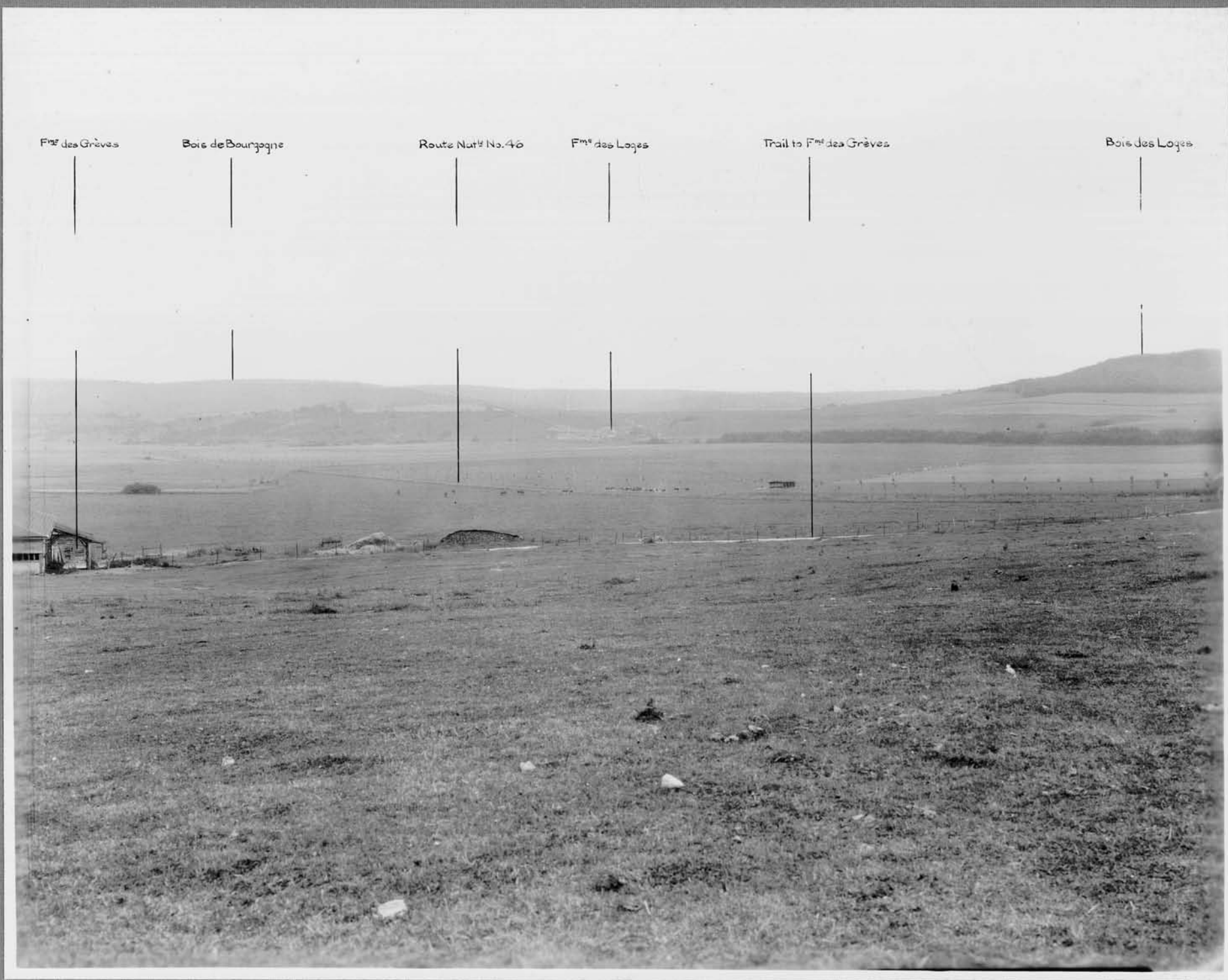
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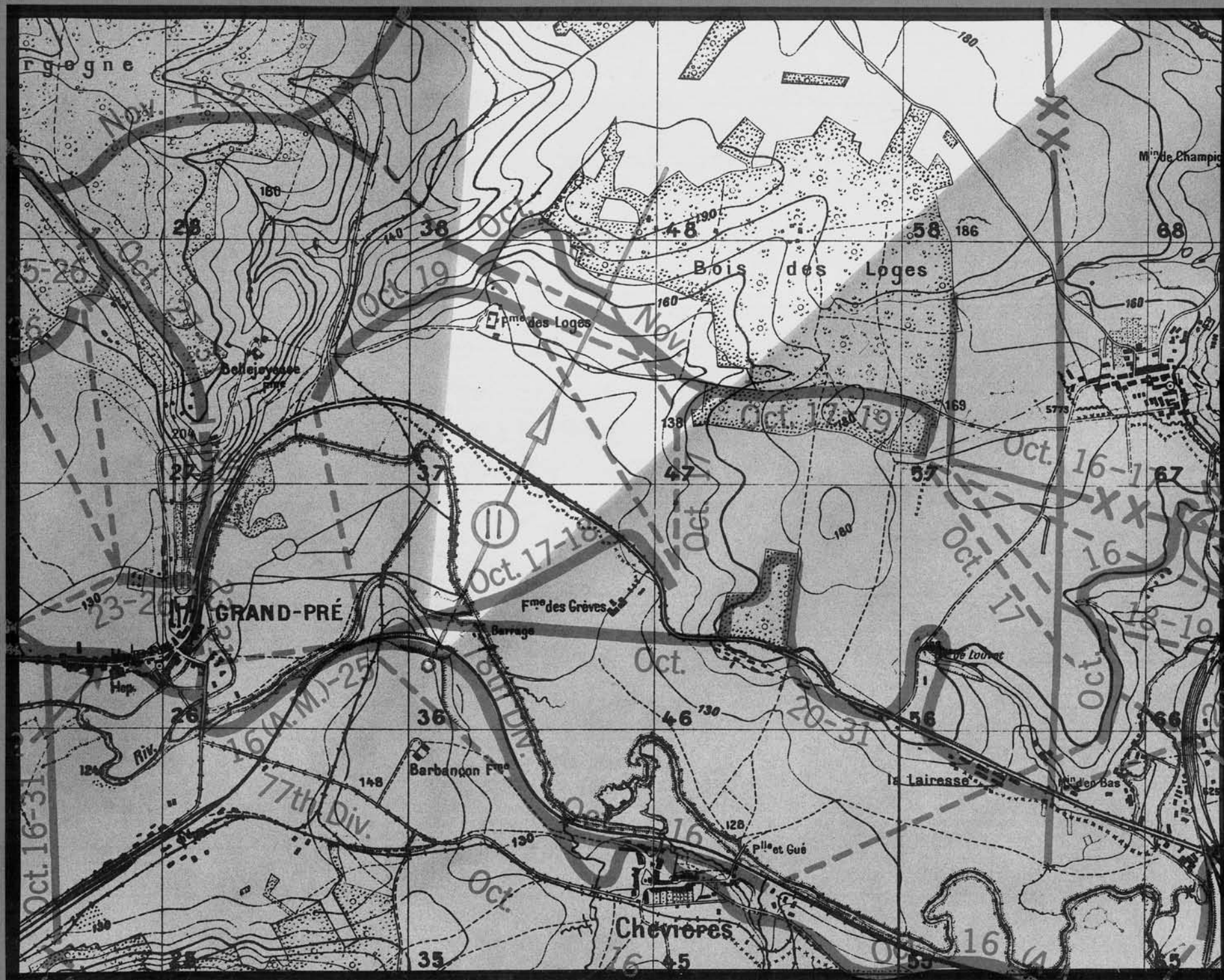
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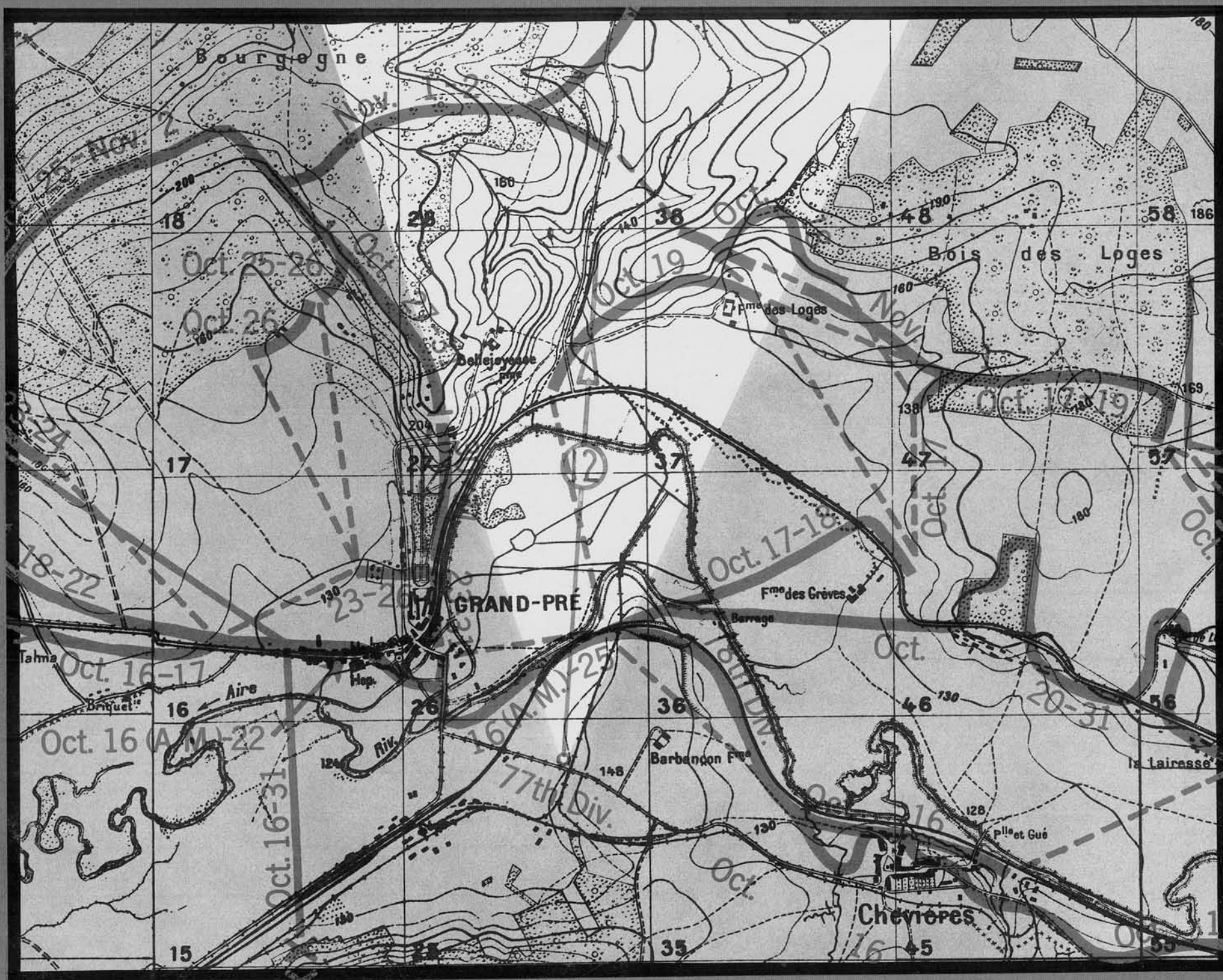












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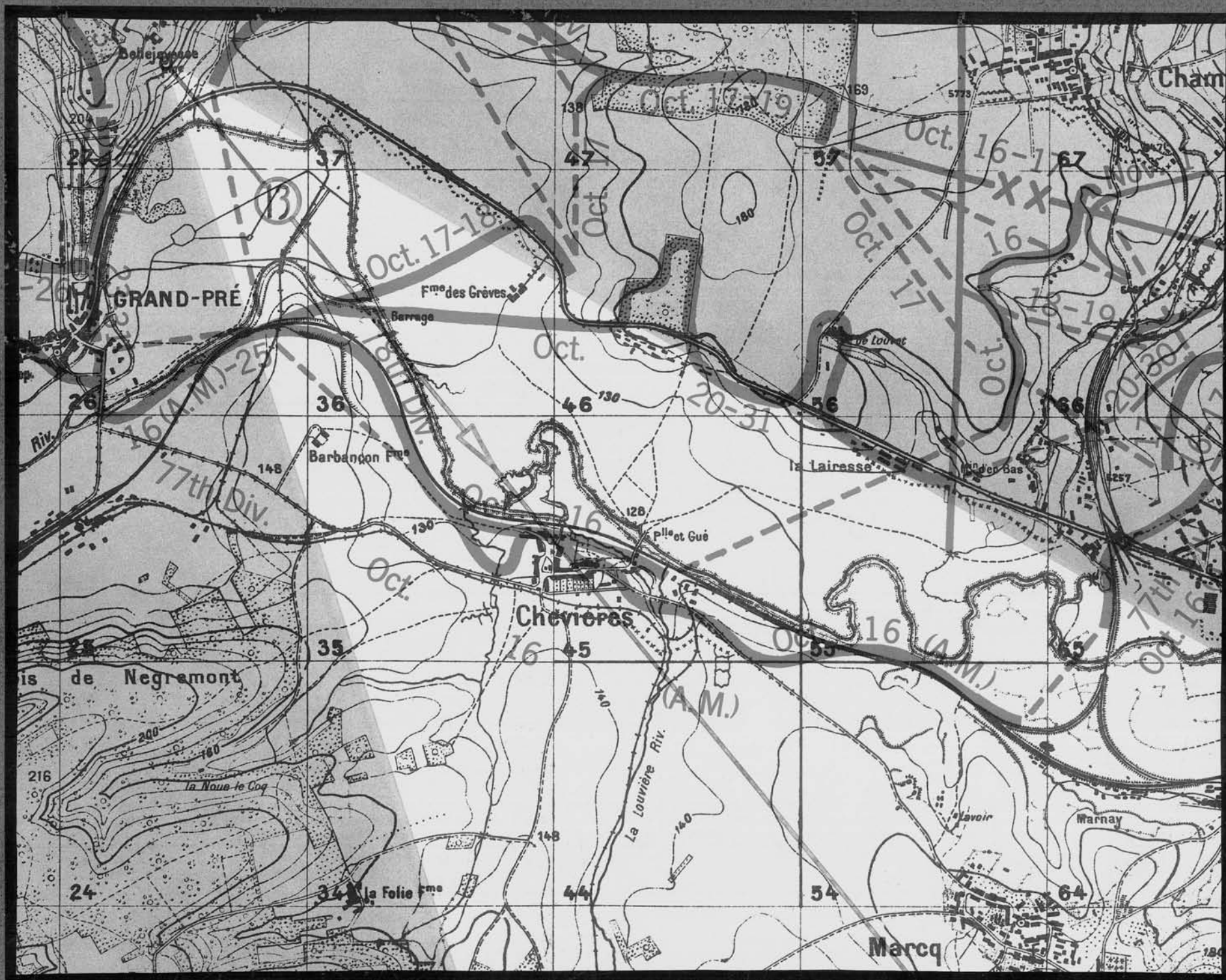
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Bois des Loges





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Chevières

Barbançon Fm^e

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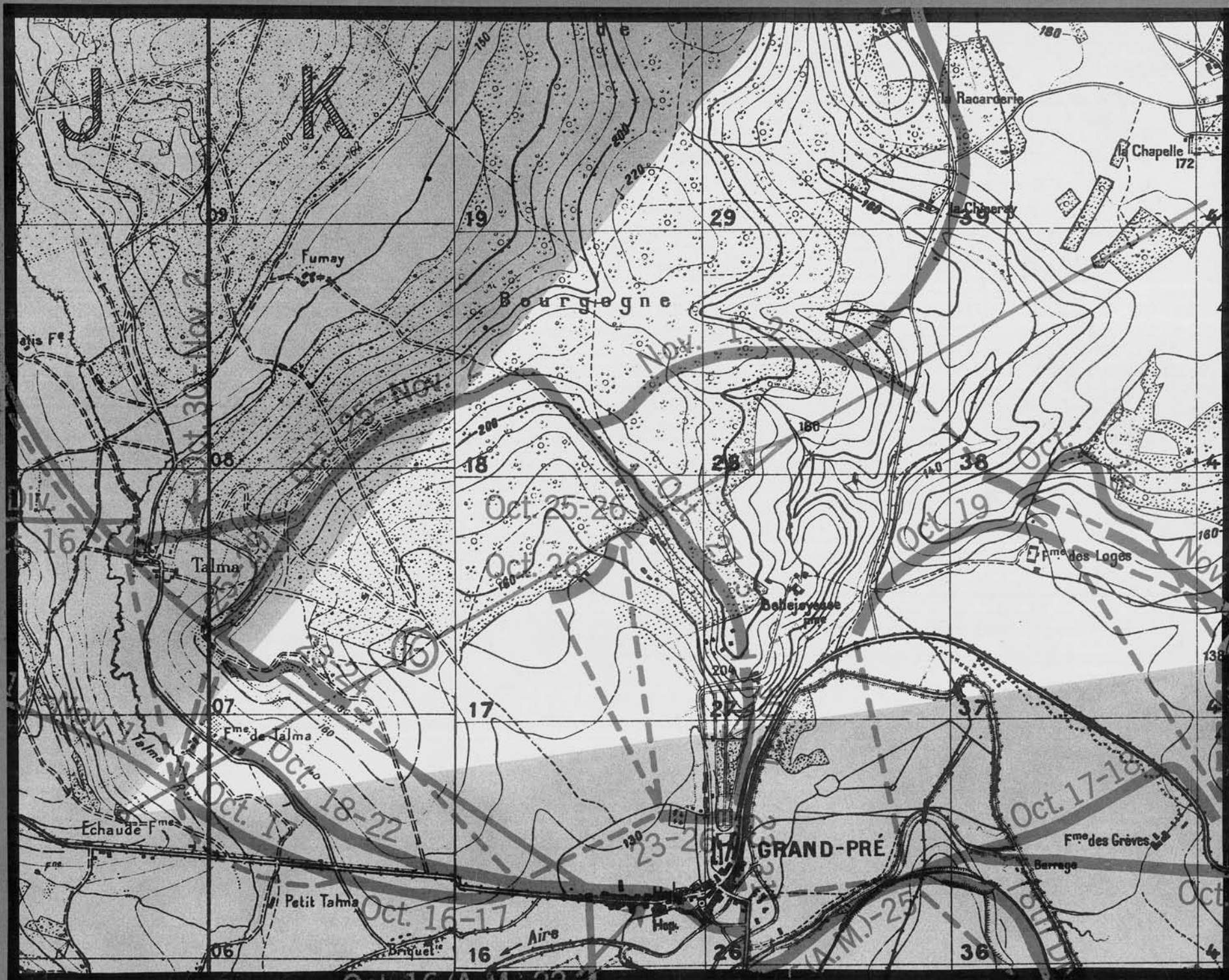




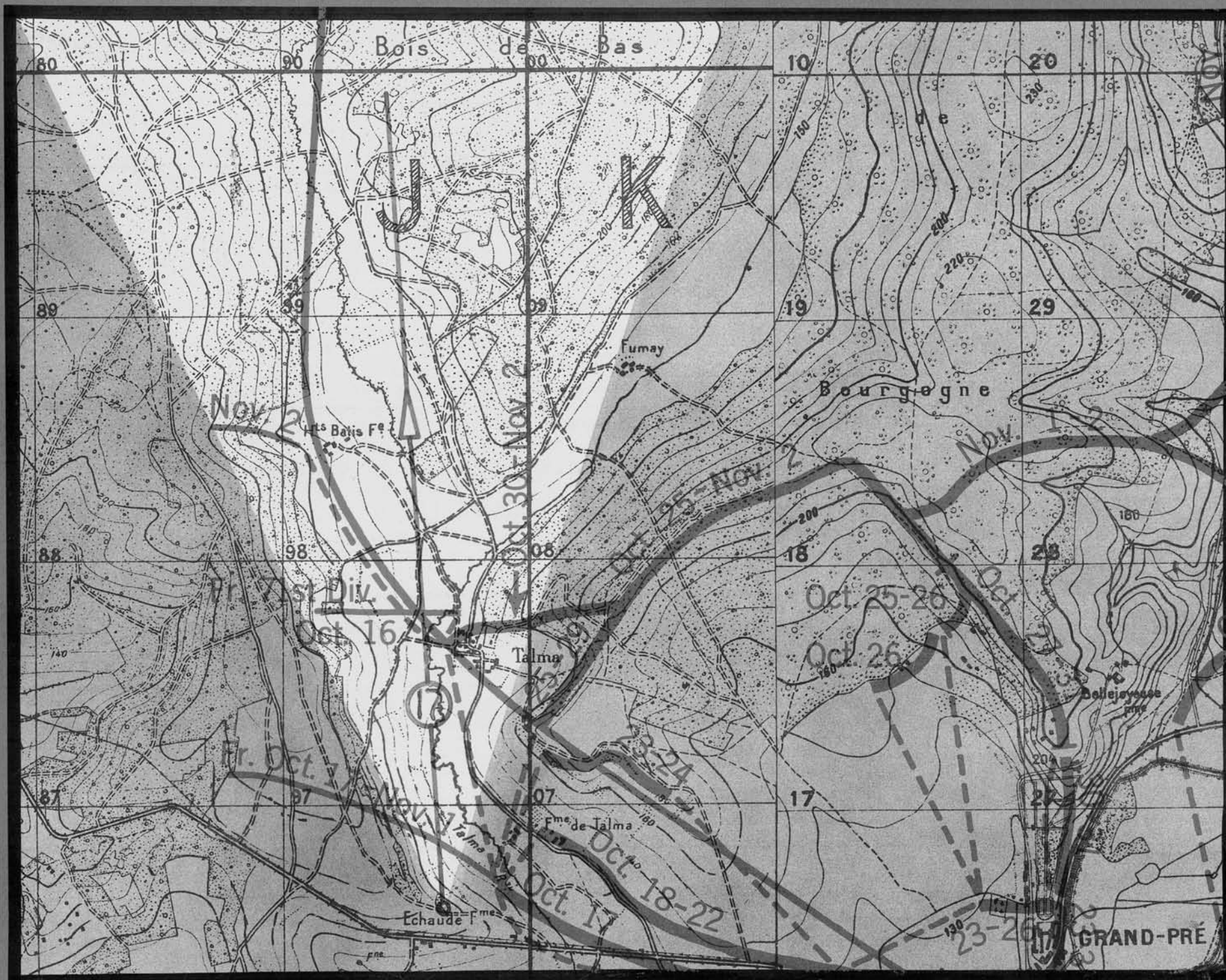




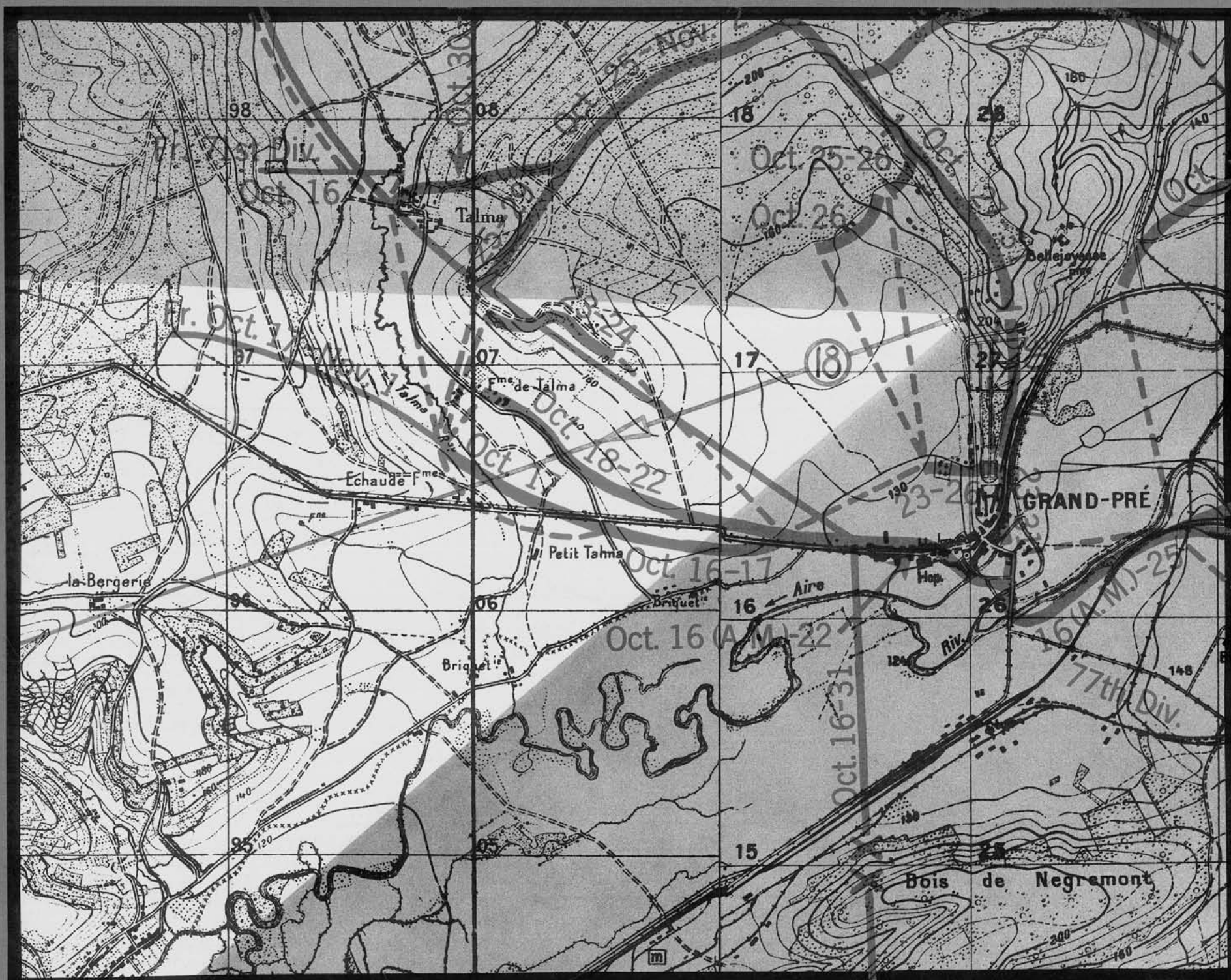




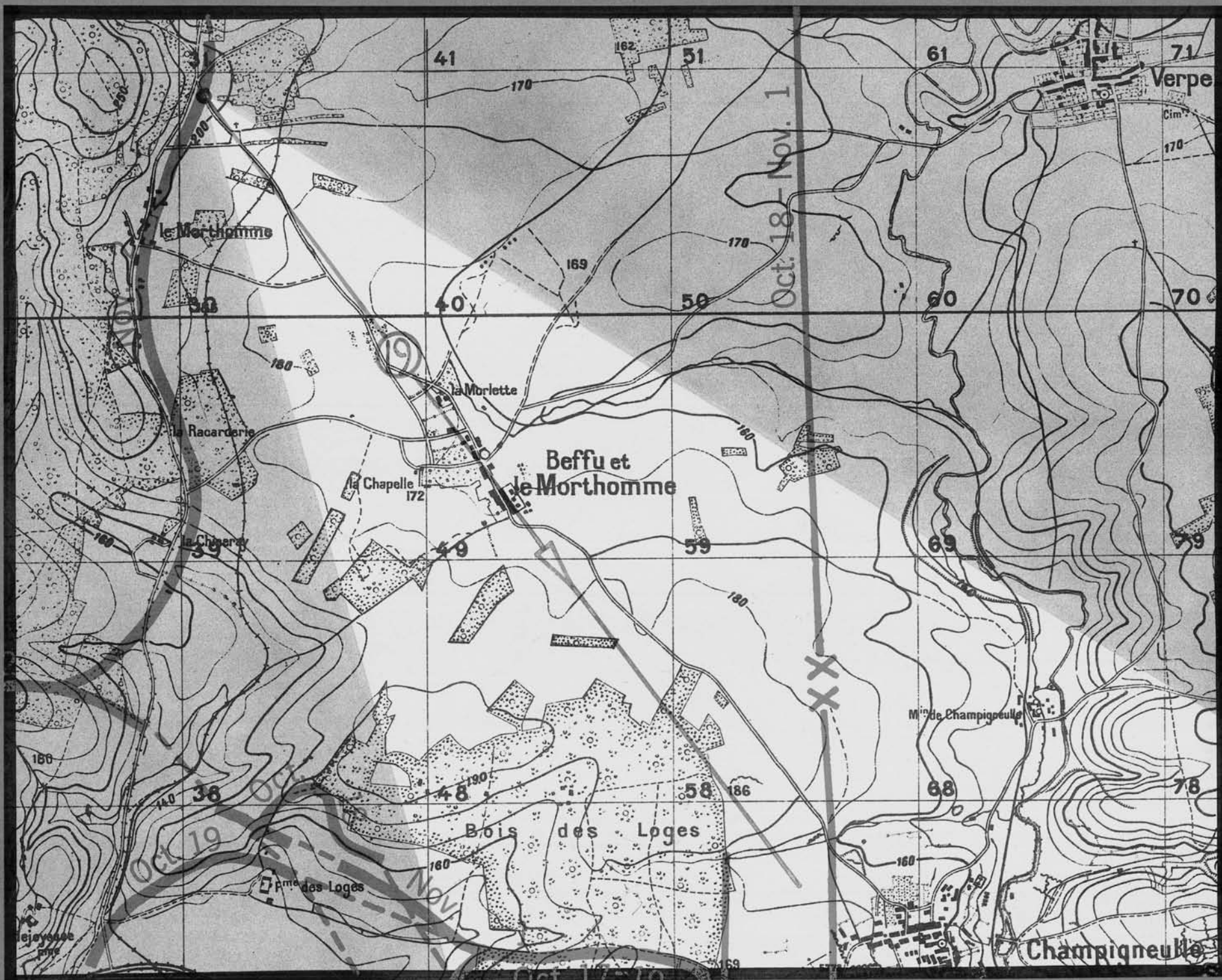




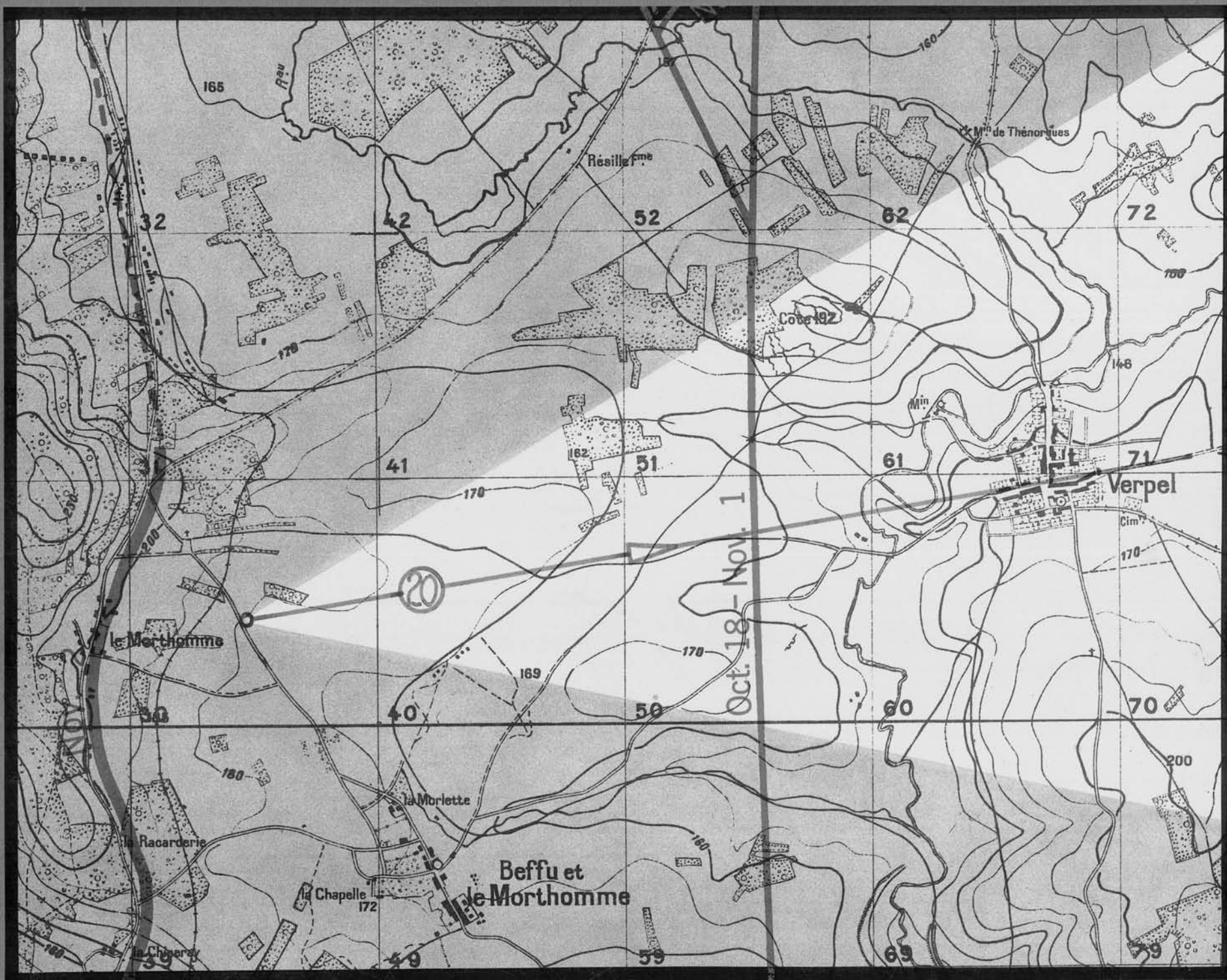




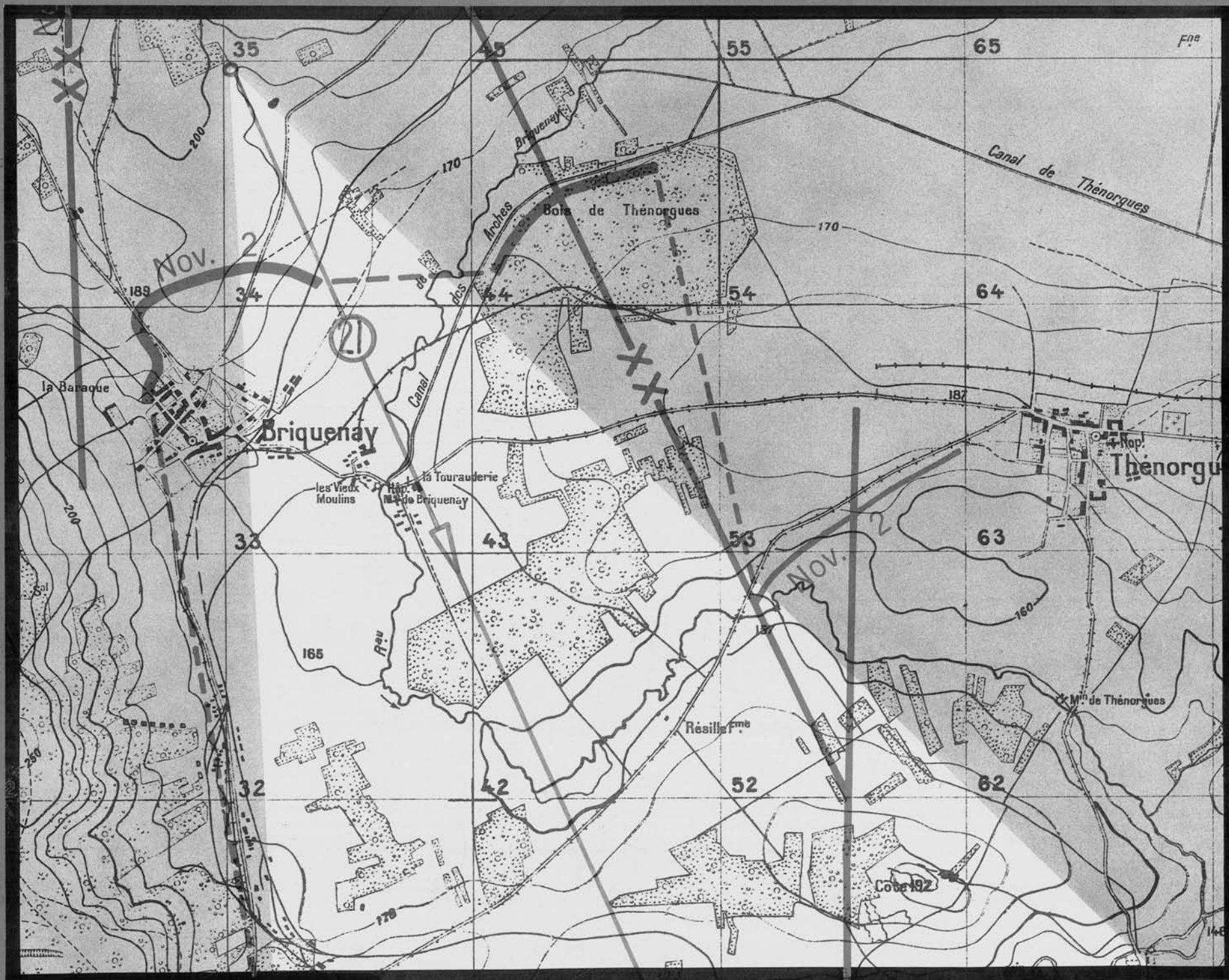






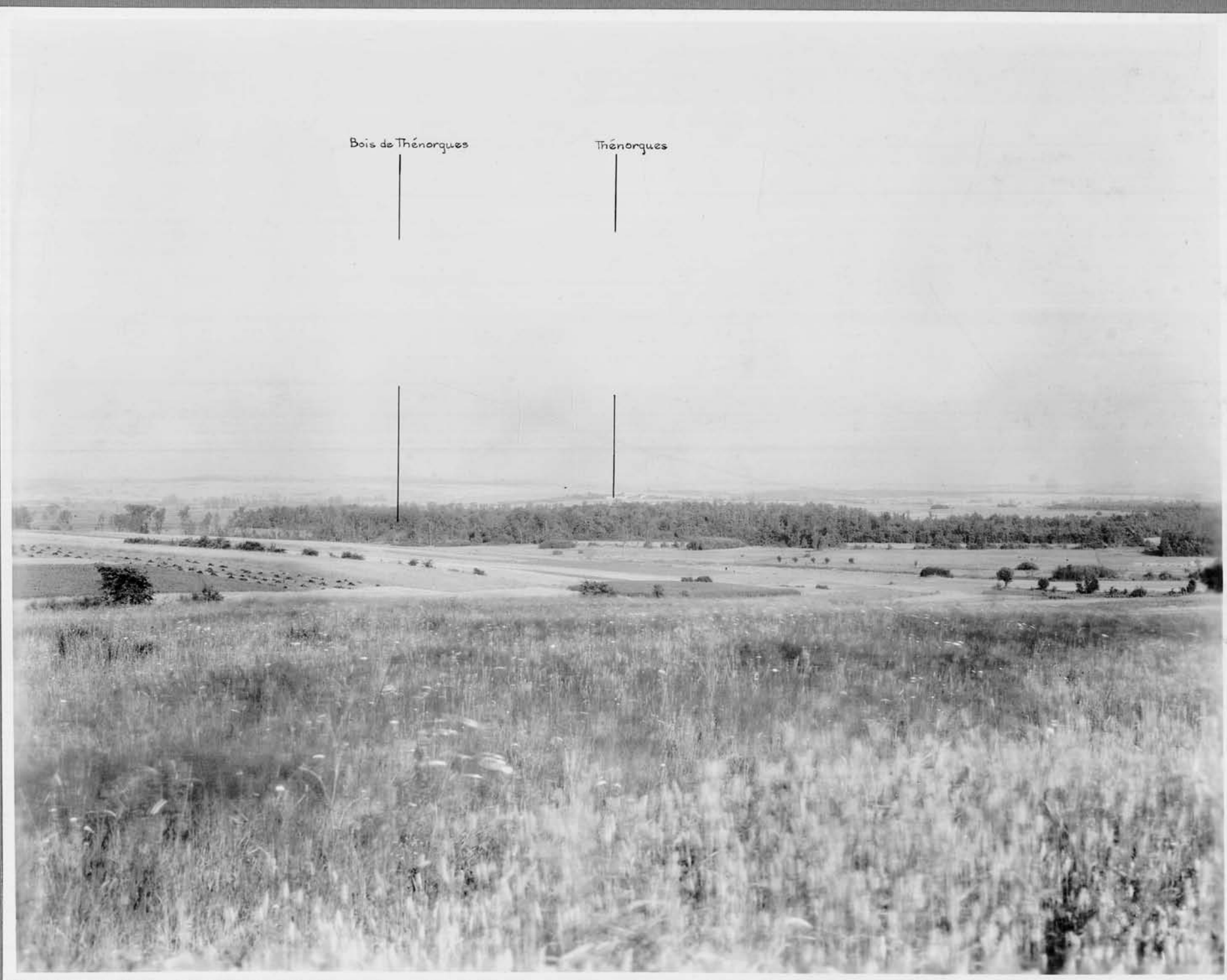


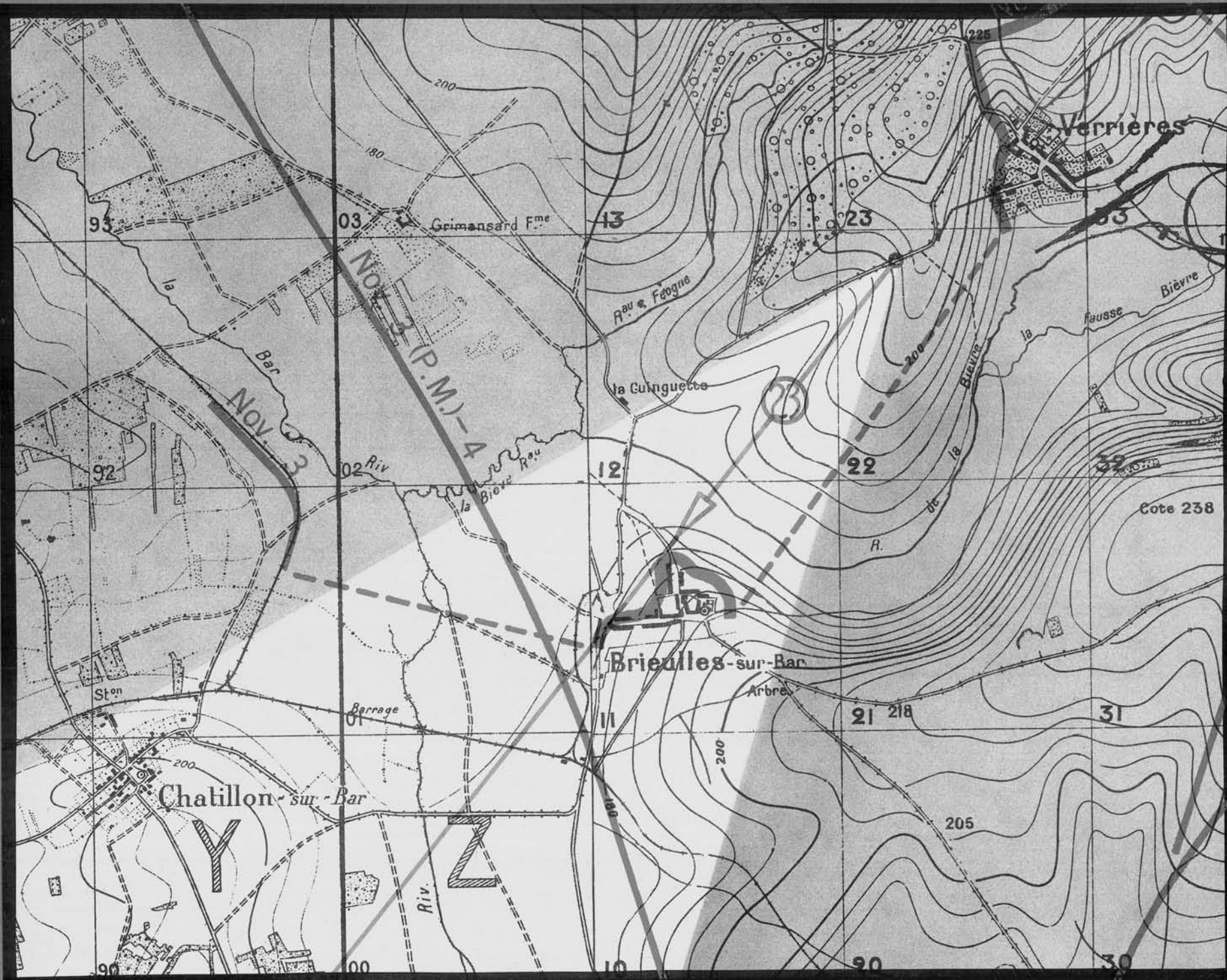












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